

the johns hopkins NEWS-LETTER

PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

VOLUME CXX, ISSUE XVII

WWW.JHNEWSLETTER.COM

FEBRUARY 11, 2016



LEON SANTHAKUMAR/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

During the first Student Involvement Week, which replaced the spring activities fair, student groups tabled on the Breezeway over five days.

Students uninterested in Involvement Week

By SHERRY SIMKOVIC
For The News-Letter

This semester, students did not pack the Ralph S. O'Connor Recreation Center for the usual activities fair frenzy. Instead, organizations occupied the Breezeway for five days during the new Student Involvement Week.

Problems with insufficient space and poorly communicated policies complicated this fall's Student Involvement Fair (formerly called the SAC Fair). Because the Rec Center only fits about half of the nearly 400 student organizations, groups have always had to register for the fair to claim their spot.

This fall, the issue was exacerbated when some

student groups were not aware of new policies and found themselves not able to participate in the fair.

The new format of Student Involvement Week (SIW), spread out over Feb. 1-5, eliminated the issue of the Rec Center's limited space. Each student organization category was assigned a day to table at the Breezeway for two hours, with the tables lining the steps from Keyser Quad down to Wyman Quad.

About 140 organizations registered for SIW, but only about 80 actually participated.

Clifton Shambry, Coordinator for Student Organizations and the creator of the event, said that the new arrangement worked well.

"It brings the clubs to

them, rather than them having to come to us," he said. "Both the student leaders and the students themselves had enjoyed getting to interact and recruit this past week. The change in location has brought [the fair] to the forefront of students' attention."

After the fall Student Involvement Fair, Shambry's office conducted a survey in order to understand the needs of both organizations looking to recruit and students looking to join. Shambry said input from that survey primarily drove the design of this year's SIW, and a common concern was the inconvenience of the Rec Center.

"They thought that it might be good to have it

on the Breezeway because you have that guaranteed audience," Shambry said. "Faculty, staff, students are all walking by."

When evaluating the format of the activities fair, Shambry said he didn't consider looking for different indoor spaces but rather, tried to think outside the box and find a way to go where students are.

The event's location on the Breezeway was a point of disagreement among student leaders. While some liked the central location on campus, others thought the steps

SEE SIW, PAGE A6

Faulty heating plagues old dorms

By CINDY YUAN
For The News-Letter

With water heater failures, broken HVAC systems and drafty windows, some students have experienced the bitter cold of winter inside their residential halls.

Wolman Hall experienced a building-wide failure in water heating during and after the blizzard.

"Residents were giving feedback that the water was not up to the temperature which they needed to shower," Tommy Koh, the RA for Wolman 6 East, said. "This was an issue we observed first on the east side. In my conversation with other RAs, I knew this happened both on the east and the west side, with residents in

various suites all reporting the issue. So it seems to be an issue that was building-wide."

After this issue was identified and reported to the Housing Office, the water heating system was fixed in two days and has since been operating normally.

Building-wide issues are not frequent, but many students from the older residential halls have reported sporadic problems with heating.

Freshman Ank Agarwal, a resident in AMR I, suffered from broken heating in his room before the Housing Office relocated him.

Celine Arpornsuksant, also a freshman in AMR I, experienced heating failure in her room in the be-

ginning of winter.

"There's no heat coming from the vents in my room so I bought a small space heater because my room would be around 48 degrees at night, which is super super cold," she said.

But drafty windows in dorms are the primary concern of students.

Kimberly Wang, a resident in McCoy, reported the insulation problem inside her dorm.

"I live in McCoy and it's pretty old. So a lot of the windows are made of wood and there are a lot of cracks in them," she said. "So oftentimes you can hear the wind whistling through the cracks. It's really hard to keep the warmth inside the

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OITNB author opens FAS season

By EMMA ROALSVIG
For The News-Letter

Piper Kerman, the author of *Orange Is the New Black: My Year in a Woman's Prison* and a prison reform advocate, spoke in Shriver Hall Wednesday night as the first speaker of the 2016 Foreign Affairs Symposium (FAS).

Kerman spoke about three improvements that could help transform the criminal justice system: common sense sentencing that minimizes incarceration time, court and jail reform, and bettering the treatment of child offenders in the system.

Kerman never expected to end up in prison when she was growing up.

"I come from a very ordinary, middle class family. I was raised in Boston, a safe and stable home. Both my parents are teachers; I was lucky to get my education at



LEON SANTHAKUMAR/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Kerman highlighted what she perceived as faults in the prison system.

such a great place," she said. "And yet, despite all this good fortune, I still walked into a somewhat uncertain future when I walked in that college graduation."

She was the type of kid who hung around after graduation and tried to figure out what her next step would be. During this period she crossed paths with a woman who she considered sophisticated and worldly.

"And she turned out to be more sophisticated than I understood because she was involved with selling narcotics," Kerman said. "And rather than run in the other direction, as perhaps, self-preservation might suggest you do, I instead followed her around the globe to places like Bali and Zurich, places that seemed unimaginably exciting to me. And in following her, I thought I might find a great adven-

ture of some sort. And, of course, what I found myself in was a great deal of trouble. I found myself in way over my head."

The woman one day urgently requested she bring money from Chicago to Brussels. Without hesitating, Kerman agreed. After delivering the money, she realized she had crossed a dangerous and potentially consequential line. This realization drove her to move to Los Angeles, where she found Smith alumnae and tried to forget her past transgression.

"As every year passed, that crazy experience seemed to recede a little bit more in the rear-view mirror," she said. "But the consequences of our actions are always going to come back to us in one way or another."

Kerman's crime caught up with her when she moved to New York

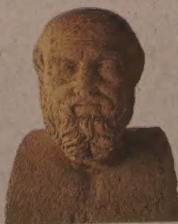
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The accuracy of Herodotus

Rollin Hu takes on the question of whether the history told by Herodotus is accurate — and if that even matters.

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Bursting out of the Glass Pav

Over 370 students celebrated with the Chinese Students Association at this year's Lunar New Year festival. NEWS PAGE A6

American stereotypes exposed

Sofia Diez explores the perception of Americans in Britain one stereotype at a time. OP/ED PAGE A11

NEWS & FEATURES

Civil rights advocate Bree Larson calls for student activism

By **MORGAN OME**
For *The News-Letter*

Activist and filmmaker Bree Newsome spoke about social and political activism and the importance of race consciousness in Charles Commons Salon C on Wednesday. She came as part of the Office of Multicultural Affairs' (OMA) Candid Conversations in the Commons series, a component of Hopkins' celebration of Black History Month.

Newsome rose to national prominence as an activist in June 2015 when she was arrested for removing the Confederate battle flag from the South Carolina State House. Newsome's actions were prompted by the Charleston church massacre that had taken place earlier that month and resulted in the death of nine parishioners. Two weeks later on July 10 the flag was removed by Gov. Nikki Haley.

A Columbia, Md. native, Newsome is a graduate of New York University, where she studied Television and Film. Her short films *The Three Princes of Idea* and *Wake* have received numerous awards and accolades. Newsome was introduced by OMA Assistant Director for Diversity Education and Community Partnerships Carla Hopkins.

Newsome began her talk by posing the question: "What does it mean to be conscious?"

"It means simply to be aware of our unconscious behavior," she said. "The process of going from unconscious to conscious is a choice an individual must make. It's an age-old aphorism: Know thyself."

Newsome attributed the beginning of her ca-

reer as an activist and the awakening of her sociopolitical consciousness to the summer of 2013. She had returned to North Carolina after serving as the first artist in residence at Saatchi & Saatchi Ad Agency and visited the Old Slave Mart Museum in Charleston with her family. There she reflected on her ancestors' history as slaves and contemplated the difficulties and adversity they faced. That same summer, George Zimmerman, an armed neighborhood watchman, was acquitted of murdering Trayvon Martin, a young black man. Newsome then began participating in protests.

"I was deeply disturbed by the facts and circumstances surrounding Trayvon's death," she said. "The case sparked a new movement led by black and brown youth who saw themselves in Trayvon... This was — this is — the new Civil Rights movement, and I was excited to be part of it — to be part of a cause much greater than myself, to help carry forward the banner of freedom, equality and justice."

Newsome explained that the Trayvon Martin case not only inspired many civil rights activists, but also Dylann Roof, the man who carried out the 2015 massacre at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, S.C. She explained that Roof's actions were part of a long history of violence against black churches.

"Roof traveled to Charleston from Columbia, South Carolina, where, since 1962, a Confederate flag had flown above the state capital as a statement of white supremacist power, as a



COURTESY OF MORGAN OME

Bree Newsome ripped the Confederate flag from the S.C. State House.

symbol of defiance against the Civil Rights movement and increasing pressure from the federal government to de-segregate," she said. "Being a child of the South... the meaning of the Confederate flag was never lost on me. It was a banner that first represented slavery, and then, after the South lost the war, it became emblematic of the Jim Crow laws that would govern the South for the next hundred years."

Newsome explained that although many have protested the presence of the Confederate battle flag, it has continued to fly outside the state building. Following the church massacre, public outrage resurfaced over South Carolina's allowance of a hate symbol. Newsome and fellow protestors were inspired to take action.

"I determined that an action to take down the flag was a cause for which I would definitely risk getting arrested again," Newsome said. "We decided to remove the flag immediately, both as an act of civil disobedience and as a demonstration of the power people have when we work together. Once I volunteered, it was decided that a white man should be the one to help me over

the fence, a sign that our alliance transcended both racial and gender divides... This is not simply about a flag, but rather, it is about abolishing the spirit of hatred and oppression in all of its forms."

Newsome concluded her talk by encouraging students to be activists.

"The concept of 'everyone is a leader' is not simply about abolishing hierarchies in leadership, but also about establishing collective responsibility," she said. "Everyone can help lead the way towards a just society."

Students reacted favorably to Newsome's talk. Junior Bitseti Hagos loved Newsome's talk and was inspired by her act of civil disobedience.

"I remember back in June, when I heard about Bree Newsome scaling the pole and taking down the flag, I felt very empowered," she said. "I was very happy, being a black woman, to see another black woman doing something so courageous, not allowing the fear of white supremacy hold her down and doing what she felt was necessary... to dismantle this power system that oppresses us."

Morgan State University students Joy Barnes

and Jeremy Collins both enjoyed Newsome's messages for activists.

"I really liked [Newsome's] focus on grassroots building and showing that [the movement] isn't about one person," Collins said. "A revolution isn't Martin Luther King Jr. or Gandhi, but the ideas that they held."

"The fact that she climbed the flagpole is a symbol of everything activists in this nation have been trying to do for so long," Barnes said. "That is a physical embodiment of all the work that everyone is trying to do, and when she did that, she found a way to dismantle institutional racism."

Freshman Vanessa Richards appreciated Newsome's explanation of consciousness.

"I took away a message about what it means to be conscious in a day and age where consciousness gets talked about a lot, but not what consciousness is," she said.

OMA Asst. Director Hopkins explained that Newsome was chosen as a speaker for her accessibility to students.

"Bree represents a generational shift in terms of social activism, and we're in an age where [the focus is] celebrity culture, reality television and big brand names," she said. "I thought it was really important as students here at Johns Hopkins have been involved in activism, both our students of color and non-color, that they see an ordinary, contemporary who started out like they did on a college campus becoming more aware of things around them, and then translating that into community awareness."

Snowden coming to FAS next Wednesday

By **PETER JI**
Staff Writer

Edward Snowden, a former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and National Security Agency (NSA) contractor who in 2013 released thousands of classified documents to expose potentially illegal domestic surveillance programs, will speak as a part of the Foreign Affairs Symposium (FAS) Wednesday Feb. 17 in Shriver Hall at 8 p.m.

His appearance is highly anticipated, yet controversial, as he is wanted in the U.S. for espionage charges, he will appear via Skype from Russia, which granted him asylum.

Snowden worked for the management consulting firm Booz Allen Hamilton, a government contractor, at an NSA base in Oahu, Hawaii. He was a system administrator, directing and conducting ways to gain access to secure communication systems. He became increasingly uncomfortable with his work and fled to Hong Kong in 2013, where he released classified files to news organizations, most notably *The Guardian*.

While the majority of Americans disapprove of these government surveillance programs, their opinions suggest Snowden's actions were nearly as negative as positive, according to a Gallup poll in June 2013. Despite heavy criticism, he has renewed the debate about how far the government should go to ensure security.

"Our mission is to create dialogue, and this is an opportunity to do so. We don't shy away from controversial speakers, especially when they have something meaningful to contribute to this dialogue," FAS Co-Executive Director Jack Laylin said.

The increase in public awareness led many officials to reexamine the programs. In November 2015, the NSA ended the bulk phone data collection program, which stored the metadata of millions of Americans, such as the number, time or duration of calls, but not the content. Now analysts must have a judge's permission to request targeted phone metadata from telecom companies, a decision that privacy advocates hailed as a major win.

The information that Snowden took from government databases, estimated to range from several hundred thousand to over one million documents, included revelations about mass data collection conducted on American citizens. Some of these programs stored and analyzed data obtained from the telephone and internet records of major technology companies in the U.S., including Google and Verizon. Snowden claimed that the scope of surveillance was far greater than the public knew.

The records of foreign government officials, including U.S. allies, were also released.

"Ideally, this event will encourage students to think critically about the world they live in," Laylin said. "We are extremely excited at the opportunity to have a personal conversation with [Snowden] and hear what students have to ask him."

Super Bowl 50 divides student body, but Broncos win

By **AMY HAN**
Staff Writer

Students gathered to watch Super Bowl 50 on Sunday night. While many opted to view the game privately with friends, others attended organized screenings to enjoy the game between the Denver Broncos and Carolina Panthers, which ended in a 24-10 victory for the Broncos.

Lady Gaga's performance of the national anthem, accompanied by the Blue Angels fly-over, kicked off the Super Bowl in Santa Clara, Calif. Fans watched in anticipation for an exciting game between the two teams.

Around forty freshman attended a screening of the game in the AMR II Lounge hosted by the Residential Advisory Board (RAB).

Freshman Brianna So is an ardent Broncos' fan and showed her support for her home team by wearing a Broncos hoodie.

"I'm supporting the Broncos because I'm from Denver, and my whole family supports them. We watch every game every Sunday. I've followed every Broncos game since coming to school. Even the ones they didn't air here, I watched them online," So said.

She expressed anticipation for an interesting game and was glad that she was able to enjoy it with other students, football fans or not.

Also at the event were students supporting the Panthers. Annika Seiden, a freshman from New Jersey,

watched the game in hopes of a Panthers victory.

"I like the Jets, but they're not in the Super Bowl. I'm going with the Carolina Panthers because they're an east coast team, and I have to represent the east coast," Seiden said. "I entered a lottery sort of thing for my dad's office, so I want to see the score at the end of the quarters. That way I'll know if I won cash."

The Broncos dominated the first quarter, scoring both a field goal and the first touchdown of the game after Von Miller sacked QB Cam Newton. Malik Jackson recovered the ball in the Broncos' end zone. Miller was later named Super Bowl MVP.

The Broncos evened out the score a bit in the second quarter with the second touchdown of the game.

However, the gap was once again widened after the Panthers' defense failed to stop Jerious Norwood from running a 61-yard punt return, the longest in Super Bowl history. The Broncos then scored their second field goal of the game.

Despite subsequent interceptions by both teams, the score remained 13-7 at the end of the half.

The Hopkins Organization for Programming (HOP) and the JHUnion Satellites hosted a viewing in the Levering Lounge with free pizza, ice cream and drinks that attracted around fifty students.

Junior Kinaya Hardie praised the convenience of the game screening.

"This was one event that

was really convenient. My friend is in the HOP and she told me about this," said Hardie. "I'm not a big football fan, but I do come from a big football family."

Hardie followed many of the NFL games leading up to the Super Bowl and rooted for the Panthers.

"I'm supporting the Panthers because, well, Cam Newton," he said. "I'm a Redskins fan, so I kind of just chose the team I'm rooting for today."

Casual NFL viewers like Senior Randy Cruz also attended the event.

"I came to this event because it's free food, and I don't have a meal plan. This is something to do on a Sunday night. I'm not a terribly big football fan, but I do follow it during the seasons," Cruz said. "There's no particular group that I'm supporting. I'll just see what happens."

About an hour and half after kickoff, Coldplay opened the Super Bowl 50 halftime show with a string of their most popular songs. Bruno Mars then joined Coldplay on stage to perform "Uptown Funk." Following that, Beyoncé performed her new single "Formation," with a crew of dancers, and proceeded to perform a dance interlude with Bruno Mars. The two then joined Coldplay for another rendition of

"Uptown Funk." The show ended with Coldplay's "Clocks" accompanied by clips of previous Super Bowl halftime shows.

The halftime show received mixed reviews from students. Freshman Liresa Hearn praised the show for its nostalgic value.

"I really liked the montage that they did of all the past halftime performances," Hearn said.

Freshmen Nicole Cheng and Abigail Pearse, felt that

the show fell short in terms of total length and time division between the performers.

"Even though Coldplay was supposed to be the main performance, both Beyoncé and Bruno Mars upstaged Chris Martin," he said.

Cheng wanted Beyoncé to have more time.

"It seemed pretty short for a halftime show. I wish there was more Beyoncé," Cheng said.

Trailing 13-7 heading into the third quarter, the Panthers acted quickly to move the ball down the field. Just past the 50-yard line on a fourth down, the Panthers opted for a field goal attempt. However's Ted Ginn, Jr.'s 44-yard kick attempt went off-center, hitting the outside of the right upright.

The Broncos, meanwhile, continued to extend

"It seemed pretty short for a halftime show. I wish there was more Beyoncé."

— NICOLE CHENG, FRESHMAN

NEWS & FEATURES

Seniors question the merits of giving to the Senior Class Gift

By **ROLLIN HU**
Staff Writer

Fewer Hopkins seniors give money to the University than seniors at peer institutions. The Hopkins Senior Class Gift Committee, an organization of seniors who encourage others to give back, is trying to increase giving among seniors and understand why Hopkins has a lower rate than other schools.

Senior Jenny Hansen, a co-chair of the committee, highlighted that peer institutions often have higher rates of giving.

"So after [Friday] night, we have over 200 gifts, and we have a senior class of about 1,300 I believe, so we are on our way. Our goal is always to get as much participation as possible. Some of our peer institutions will get 70 to 80 percent participation, and in the past our numbers have been closer to 50 percent, so we're always trying to raise the bar and kind of compete with our peer institutions," she said.

"I think that right now we are in the lead compared to all the previous classes. The Class of 2014 set the record with 54 percent participation, and I believe we are on track to meet or better that participation rate which is really exciting."

She also explained why Hopkins has a relatively low participation rate compared to the donation rates of graduating seniors at other universities, like Georgetown (73 percent), Yale (96 percent) and Harvard (78 percent).

"We don't set it as a standard really early on. In other schools, the tradition of giving is established very early on, from students' freshman year, and I think that there is a different sense of loyalty in those kind of peer institutions," Hansen said. "We're really trying to change, but that's more on an institutional level than from the Senior Class Gift Committee's abilities to influence."

Many seniors, like Matt Moores, are unsure about what the Senior Class Gift Committee does and where the gifts go.

"I don't really know what Senior Class Gift Committee does but it feels like their role is [to] get more money out of us!" Moores wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

Hansen noted that increasing the Senior Class Gift participation rate could potentially raise the University's ranking, like in the *U.S. News & World Report's* influential list.

"One of the things we're excited about is that we're finally a top-10 ranked school, and one of the things that kind of influences those rankings is senior and alumni giving participation," Hansen said. "So the higher participation rates help our rankings, and then those rankings help the value of our degree from Hopkins."

She spoke about the committee's functions and importance and explained what constitutes a gift.

"A gift is any donation. To be eligible for certain perks, like to enter the raffles or to get your mug at Spring Fair or to go on

a Gilman bell tower tour, you've had to have made a gift of at least \$20.16," Hansen said.

Hansen goes on to elaborate how these gifts can be donated to specific causes or Hopkins groups to make a more personalized contribution.

"What's really important is that you can give your gift anywhere. For example, I'm a member of the Vocal Chords. I gave my gift of \$20.16 to the Vocal Chords, and that counts. And that's money that the Vocal Chords will be able to use to fund our concerts, maybe allow us to go on tour," Hansen said. "The Vocal Chords have had a really big impact on my Hopkins experience, and so I want to make that experience possible for future Hopkins students."

Hansen emphasized the fact that the donations actually go to specific, personalized causes.

"I think it's really important for students to understand that they are not necessarily giving to some black hole of the University," she said. "They can really have a say in where their gift goes and give it to somewhere [that] has been a meaningful experience at their time in Hopkins."

Hansen also noted that many gifts are given to the Hopkins Fund.

"You can also give your gift to the area of most need, which is the Hopkins Fund, and that funds financial aid and the overall undergraduate experience," she said. "Seventy-two percent of your education is made possible by tuition. The other 28 percent is created by philanthropy, like things from the Senior Class Gift and the Hopkins Fund. Any gift that is made to the Hopkins Fund is matched by an anonymous donor, which is really awesome. So you're really able make a difference that way."

Senior Neil Mallinar was one who used his donation as a way to show appreciation for specific communities at Hopkins.

"I did donate; the donation was important to me personally because I was able to give it back to the communities that made my four years here so spectacular, specifically the theater, music and arts communities, especially considering the fact that it seems like budget cuts affect those communities first," Mallinar wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

However, he also held some reservations about donating, especially to the Hopkins Fund.

"Barring the sentimental value of the donation, there are issues with appropriation of funds at Hopkins in general and that asking for donations from students seems to me to be a little shifty given each student brings in a quarter of a million in tuition for the University," Mallinar wrote. "Specifically, the page I read suggested donating to the Hopkins Fund, which goes to the discretionary budget, [and] the Dean

gets to choose where to put the money based on the needs of Homewood campus, which might not reflect the needs or desires of the students."

When asked about donating, students remarked about how they had already given a lot of money to Hopkins through tuition.

"I just feel like I've already given Hopkins enough money," Moores wrote. "Also I'm broke as hell."

Hansen addressed students' reservations about giving money back to the school.

"It's important for people to donate because they are helping to contribute to what tuition doesn't cover. Also, at the end of the day, almost half (48 percent) of students receive financial aid. For those people who feel like they've already paid Hopkins so much money, it's totally understandable.

College in general is expensive."

"The difference between tuition and the Senior Class Gift," she continued, "is that with tuition you are paying for something, whereas with the Senior Class Gift Campaign it's about making a gift. It's kind of subtle, but the paying versus donating is the big distinguishing factor, and donations help make up that remaining 28 percent to complete the Hopkins experience," Hansen wrote.

She argued that while Hopkins can be stressful and tiring, it has given all students amazing opportunities and important knowledge.

"There's like never a great way to phrase this, there are always some people who don't really want to give back to the University whether it's not something they can afford now or they didn't enjoy their time here. You

know, let's be frank, Hopkins is an intense and tiring place, but at the end of the day we all chose to come here and there has... absolutely been a positive thing that Hopkins has offered everyone," Hansen said. "I really think it is a time for students to kind of reflect and see past the more difficult moments that Hopkins has handed them and really recognize all the good that it has brought into their lives, and that was all possible because of gifts that have been made in the past."

The Senior Class Gift rarely goes toward the construction of physical objects on campus.

"So we're really not doing things like 'the bench of 2016.' That's not really what we're about. It's about giving back to Hopkins in a really meaningful way and, not to discount benches of the past, but what makes your Hopkins experience is what

you've participated in [during] your time here," Hansen said.

The Senior Class Gift Committee is also hosting several events for the spring semester to encourage more seniors to donate.

"One of our events was last [Friday] night, the senior class campaign kickoff party which was held in Gilman, and throughout the semester, we'll have some more slightly smaller events, just to motivate people to give," Hansen said. "In the past they have had 'Doughnuts for Donors' in the morning on the Breezeway so if you're on your way to class and you've made your gift, you can pick up a doughnut. At Spring Fair, one of our really popular giveaways is a special mug to be used in the beer garden, and you only get that mug if you've made your gift."

Start-up connects health workers to new jobs



COURTESY OF AHMED ELSAYYAD

The Elsayyad Medical Group is led by Elsayyad, Quraishi and Sonko, who all met and became friends at Hopkins as undergraduates.

By **KELSEY KO**
Staff Writer

Ahmed Elsayyad, Zein Quraishi and Lamin Sonko, three friends and alumni of Hopkins, launched the Elsayyad Medical Group, a healthcare recruiting and consulting company, last September. The group works to connect healthcare providers with physicians and potential staff.

While attending Hopkins, founder and CEO Ahmed Elsayyad was struck by the idea that healthcare providers often have trouble finding and recruiting staff. Elsayyad began to realize that this was a service he could more efficiently provide to customers. During his gap year between graduating from Hopkins and attending medical school, he decided to take advantage of the opportunity.

"I was accepted into medical school my sophomore year summer, and I decided to graduate early so that I would have a year to do something I normally wouldn't do. In my third year, I found that a practice in my hometown was really struggling to find physicians," Elsayyad said. "For me it was kind of strange because I knew that there was a huge physician shortage, but I didn't see any of the practical implications [until then]. So I talked to the practice, and I asked them if I could help them, no business in mind or any-

thing like that. I started there, and I basically got them an infectious disease doctor and made \$15,000."

Quraishi, the Chief Marketing Officer, graduated from Hopkins last May with a B.A. in Public Health and is now obtaining his Masters in Health Administration at the Bloomberg School of Public Health. Quraishi and Sonko joined the project after Elsayyad told them about the opportunities he found in healthcare recruitment and consultation.

"This past summer, Ahmed went ahead and started it. When I came back to Hopkins in the fall, we spoke about it, and I said I wanted to be a part of the team. Ever since then we just kind of got the ball rolling. We're working on a multitude of different contracts throughout the country," Quraishi said.

Quraishi outlined how the company is starting to answer the big healthcare questions posed by providers.

"Healthcare is shifting upstream. Whereas traditionally there was a focus on getting patients into offices and into hospitals, now we're seeing a change where providers and executives are being incentivized to keep patients healthy within their community," he said. "Right now our main offerings are healthcare recruiting and staffing. So,

for example, a client will tell us what their expectations are first, then we'll try to assess how large their practice is, how many patients they have coming, and we kind of use all of those factors to give our recommendation of whether or not they should hire a NP, a PA or a physician, and how many they should hire."

"Another service line we offer is medical equipment," Quraishi said. "A client approaches us; we determine what their needs are, what the appropriate level of equipment is, and at what frequency they'll need it; and then we have preferred companies and suppliers that we work with to get them the most value."

Although Elsayyad Medical Group has only been an active business since the fall, it has quickly garnered attention. Elsayyad explains that the company's specialization in healthcare recruitment has slowly made it a forerunner in its sector.

"A big thing right now that I think is really interesting is that we're basically beginning to become a thought leader in the healthcare recruiting world," Elsayyad said. "I recently got interviewed by people at WebMD about healthcare recruiting and advanced healthcare networks. We're really young and we just started this so we were really surprised."

Elsayyad also reiter-

ated that as an aspiring doctor, working in his own company with different physicians has been an important learning experience.

"Some parts of my job are really fulfilling, especially talking to physicians," he said. "I'm going to be a physician, and Lamin is also going to be a physician in the future, so it's nice to get that perspective where we're constantly interacting with the people that we're going to become."

Quraishi thinks the business partnership is successful because it grew out of a strong friendship and a shared interest.

"Even though we're partners, I'd call us brothers. We kind of grew up together in undergrad in a sense — we were friends throughout the entire process. So our relationship is very organic," he said.

"Our relationship doesn't revolve around a business, it revolves around brotherhood, which extends far before even starting this business. Throughout the whole undergraduate process we always had in the back of our minds that we wanted to be able to leverage our experiences at Hopkins, the knowledge we gained at Hopkins and the knowledge and experience we gained in our careers to provide the best practices and services to the healthcare community at large."

NEWS & FEATURES

OITNB author Piper Kerman talks prison reform



Piper Kerman, who spent 13 months in prison, spoke about her experiences and her recommendations for prison reform.

EAS, FROM A1

and two federal agents knocked on her door to tell her she had been indicted in federal court in Chicago and had to appear at her arraignment.

"This began my journey through the American criminal justice system, or at least a portion of it, a system, ironically, that I didn't know a lot about," Kerman said. "I really recommend, if you have big transgressive moves that you're thinking about, understand the sanctions you face."

Kerman was sentenced to 15 months in prison at the Federal Correctional Institution in Danbury, Connecticut. She was released two months early, spending 13 months in prison. She informed the audience of different facts about prison in America. The United States contains 5 percent of the world's population, but a quarter of the world's prisoners, and a third of world's female prisoners.

Her first few days in prison were, as women told her they would be, difficult. When she first arrived, women would ask if she needed items like toothpaste and shower shoes. The prison did not supply those items, often considered 'unnecessary.' They had to be bought from commissary, and prisoners did not receive commissary money until a few weeks into their stay.

"Look, today is a really bad day," one prisoner told her. "Tomorrow will be a tiny bit better."

"The last thing I expected on my first day in prison was to experience kindness at the hands of the other women," Kerman said.

From her positive experiences with the women in prison, she wrote her book so that people would have a more accurate view of prison and to help the general public see prisoners as people rather than as criminals.

"I thought it was important to invite the reader to put themselves in my shoes or in shoes of one of the other women who is depicted in the book. And it's hard to do because we kind of resist identifying with felons, criminals, convicts, all of the different words we use to describe those 2.4 million people who are locked up," Kerman said. "I hoped that by talking about what I experienced and what I witnessed that someone might come away from the book with a different idea about who's in prison in this country... and why they're there."

She wanted her book to have elements of "pop culture" so people would be more likely to read it.

Kerman explained the forms of punishment women can receive once

in jail. Each jail has rules, and if they were broken, a woman could find herself in solitary confinement. Solitary confinement could be issued for committing assault in prison, or breaking a more minor rule, and Kerman called it a kind of torture. Kerman has testified twice before Congress on the subject of solitary confinement.

Kerman discussed the function of prisons and jails in today's society.

"Prisons and jails are tools of social control, and we as a society choose to use them on segments of the population but they are not equally applied or distributed as tools," Kerman said.

For Kerman, the prison system is inherently unjust, and she cited race and socioeconomic status as factors.

"Different Americans will be policed differently. They will be prosecuted differently. They will be punished differently," Kerman said.

For example, she cited data that black Americans are four times more likely to be arrested for possession of marijuana than white Americans.

To make prison time less crushing, the women sought different forms of entertainment. Kerman chose to run laps around the prison's track. She also partook in prison cooking, where she learned to make prison cheesecake. A popular activity was crocheting because the tools for it were sold in the commissary. Some women made blankets and auctioned them off.

"Prisoners seek ways to channel their energy into something productive," Kerman said.

The women found comfort in each other and built friendships to help survive their confinement.

"There's a level of intimacy that gives you a clear sense of what people are capable of, both the good and the bad," Kerman said. "You must figure out how you fit into the social ecology of this place."

She also highlighted the importance of staying in touch with family and friends on the outside. Mail-call was an anticipated time of day because it was a sign for inmates that the outside world and their loved ones hadn't forgotten about them.

She explored the interplay between gender and power.

"In every prison that I've spent time in and there were three, the staff is overwhelmingly male and the prisoners were all female," she said.

Students, including Junior Allie Gottlin, had a

positive reception to her speech.

"Piper Kerman is truly an inspiring person," she wrote in an email to The News-Letter. "She is someone who can take her devastating prison sentence and turn it into advocating for justice and prison reform. Her book and TV show have been able to reach millions,

involved with women going to prison," Green wrote in an email to The News-Letter. "She talked about having women help her and welcome her in when she first arrived, and talked about issues with the prison system in America."

Abby Biesman contributed reporting.

and she continues to inspire all those around her."

Junior Charlie Green praised Kerman's discussion of women in prison.

"She eliminated a lot of stigma and mystery

BPD officers in Gray trial try to block appeal

By CATHERINE PALMER

News & Features Editor

Three of the Baltimore Police Department (BPD) officers implicated in the death of Freddie Gray are seeking to block prosecutors' attempts to appeal a decision made by Judge Barry Williams on Jan. 20 regarding a fourth officer's testimony.

Prosecutors have been trying for several weeks to compel Officer William Porter, whose trial ended with a hung jury in December, to testify against Officers Edward Nero and Garrett Miller and Lieutenant Brian Rice. Williams denied the motion on Jan. 20, saying he believed prosecutors were simply trying to delay the trials. Nero's trial is currently set to begin Feb. 22.

The prosecution has

now turned to the Court of Special Appeals in the hopes of having Williams' decision overturned.

According to Baltimore Circuit Court filings, lawyers for Nero, Miller, and Rice are also turning to the Court of Special Appeals in order to prevent the prosecution from appealing Williams' ruling. The defense attorneys say that the decision is not appealable and that prosecutors want to delay their client's trial until after Porter is retried in June, after which he could testify without fear of self-incrimination.

Gray, 25, died from a severe spinal cord injury in April, one week after being arrested by BPD officers. His death sparked more than a week of both peaceful and violent protesting.

Students get start-up advice from Y Combinator



CC BY 2.0/PAUL MILLER

Y Combinator, a venture capital fund that focuses on providing start-ups with seed funds, visited campus to support student business ideas.

By CLAIRE FOX
Staff Writer

Hosted by Johns Hopkins Technology Venture's FastForward, representatives from the startup accelerator Y-Combinator (YC) held an event in Hodson Hall on Friday. Visiting Hopkins as part of their Winter College Tour. Partner and head of admissions at YC Dalton Caldwell and hardware specialist Luke Iseman gave a presentation about the Silicon Valley-based company followed by a Q&A session with the audience.

Headquartered in Mountain View, California, Y-Combinator is one of the most successful seed accelerators, funding several widely known companies such as Airbnb, Dropbox, Weebly and Reddit. Since beginning in 2005, it has funded over 1,050 startups, including robotics, medical, hardware and app companies.

Working on a batch cycle, Y-Combinator receives applications to take companies into its program twice a year, in the winter and summer. YC invests \$120,000 or 7 percent of common stock in every company that it accepts. All admitted company participants are required to temporarily relocate to the Silicon Valley for the program's three-month period.

The program provides companies with intimate, frequent office hours, during which founders can consult with YC partners about their companies. Additionally, group office hours are held with a number of different companies, so that founders can discuss their respec-

tive problems and receive advice from other startups. During weekly "dinners," all founders in the current batch get a chance to talk with each other and listen to successful startup speakers, such as the founder of Airbnb, the CEO of FitBit, the founder of Dropbox and Mark Zuckerberg.

Caldwell explained the purpose of featuring such speakers.

"Successful startups are often much messier than you would think," he said.

"Hearing the real stories about all the messy things that happened is quite insightful."

The conclusion of the YC program, the event that all of the startups work toward, is Demo Day, during which each company makes a pitch in front of several hundred prospective investors.

Iseman spoke about what he thinks is the key to startup success.

"I can't stress this enough: make something. Make a physical thing, show it to people, and you've already differentiated yourself from the vast majority who want to someday maybe start a startup," Iseman said. "No matter how broken it is, no matter how prone to occasionally catching fire your prototype might be, make it, show it to users. You'll earn more with one minute of showing to users than you will with a decade of sitting in a room with your smart co-

founders, brainstorming about what users might someday want."

He then followed by stating that not only should hardware companies make physical things, they should also focus on earning profit.

"It really boils down to focusing on, one, making things and two, making sure people want them and are going to pay you money for them," Iseman said. "If you're not making money, you are not growing. Period."

Earlier in the day, from

2 - 5 p.m., Caldwell and Iseman held office hours, similar to those in the YC program, on campus, which students were able to sign up for online. During these one-on-one

office hours, students are encouraged to discuss their ideas and concerns regarding their own startup aspirations with the YC representatives. Iseman said some of the projects students discussed with him were promising.

"At Hopkins there are a lot of smart people working hard, and we like that," he said. "It's most exciting when we see someone who is starting to actually make things for customers and actually get people to pay for it. Seeing students start to realize that is really exciting."

Even though YC encourages students to pursue their own startup aspirations, Caldwell noted the difficulty of attending college and starting a company simultaneously.

"I think that it's very hard to run a successful startup and go to school at the same time," Caldwell said. "I also don't think you should drop out. In the most famous case, if you think about Facebook, [Mark Zuckerberg] had something that ninety-five percent of the student body used and he was a celebrity on campus. Every time he scratched his nose, *The Harvard Crimson* wrote an article about it. If that's you, then maybe you should drop out, but otherwise, stay in school."

Students, like senior Joseph Min and freshman Kimberly Zou, came to hear the YC representatives speak to learn more about startups in general and about how they could get involved.

"I'm a computer science major, so I'm pretty interested in the whole venture capitalist, investing-in-startups scene," Min said. "I'm really excited to hear Y-Combinator talk."

"I'm interested in the sustainable route of venture capitalism," Zou said. "I'm hoping to hear what they talk about and how it can apply to me."

Caldwell finished the presentation by stressing that the biggest mistake prospective startup owners can make is becoming intimidated.

"The main message I want to get across to audiences when I go to universities is to say that you can do it too. If you want to start a company, the best way to succeed is to just start a company," he said. "If you someday want to have a funded startup and want to be successful, you should just start doing it today. You don't need permission from the world. Just do it."

NEWS & FEATURES

Concern over 7-Eleven robberies continues



SOFYA FREYMAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

There have been multiple robberies at nearby 7-Eleven locations.

SECURITY, FROM A1
that do not have enough or have none at all.

"We have some areas of the campus, for example San Martin Drive," he said. "It's an isolated area, and we want to put some more eyes on that location with cameras."

In addition to technological advances, Campus Safety and Security constantly analyzes patrol areas and then decides how many patrol officers to assign to each spot.

He said that a reason more of the reported crime happens off campus is because of the numbers of officers around campus, particularly around areas that students frequent like 33rd and St. Paul Streets.

"If you notice, we have a lot of officers in that general area because... that's where our students frequent, whether they live off campus or on campus, and that's why we flood that area with a lot of security," James said. "I think that works because if you look at the robberies, the Northern District Reports that BPD gets, a lot of that seems to be outside the area."

Several robberies, some armed, have occurred at an off-campus 7-Eleven located at 211 W. 28th St. In January 2015, there was a robbery at the 7-Eleven located at 3003 N. Charles St. at Homewood Apartments. Though the majority of the robberies have been farther off campus, their proximity and occasional occurrences on campus has raised concerns for students.

Though the BPD is responsible for incidents outside the patrol zone, Campus Safety and Security is working with the city to patrol the area adjacent to the W. 28th St. 7-Eleven.

While little can be done by the University to prevent crime from happening in an off-campus location, James said students should be alert while walking on the street given that a

robbery can happen anywhere.

"The thing is to pay attention," James said. "I really stress that people need to pay attention to their surroundings, to who's around them."

James emphasized that cell phones are a major distractor in situations.

"We're always on them, we're always texting, we're always listening to music... we're doing a lot," he said.

On Jan. 27, Campus Security released a security alert reporting an attempted kidnapping on the 3200 block of N. Charles Street.

"The lone driver displayed a hand semi-automatic handgun and told the student to get in," the statement said.

Campus Security sent an update about the incident on Jan. 29 and then reported on Feb. 9 that the investigation was closed.

"The BPD found that the incident involved an Uber driver on a transport call and a female undergraduate pedestrian who was mistaken for the intended passenger, and that no weapon was involved," the statement said.

Some students commented that they feel safe despite the frequency of reported crime.

"I do feel safe on campus," sophomore Daphne Schlesinger said. "There's lots of HopCops all the time. I think that even though they don't have guns, it's more the presence that really create the sense of security. In a way feeling safe is the most important thing, and that creates actual safety."

Junior Aaron Cary echoed similar sentiments of feeling safe at Hopkins and using "street smarts."

"Being from Baltimore already, I feel pretty safe at Hopkins and in the surrounding campus area," he said. "I typically have an understanding of where not to go, and as long as I behave myself appropriately and don't go looking for trouble, then I'll typically stay out of it."

Dorms offer insufficient protection from cold

HEAT FROM A1

room. Also, at one time... it started flooding when it rained, which was not fun. It wasn't fun to find a waterfall in your room."

Siwen Zhao, also in Wolman, has experienced difficulties with both heating and insulation.

"The heater in my room is really loud and doesn't seem to be very effective," she said. "The heater blows directly towards my roommate's bed, so she does not like to turn it on. My bed is right next to the window, and there is often a draft coming from the middle of the window, which makes me feel really cold, especially at night."

Senior Nikita Singh, the co-director of the Sustainable Hopkins Infrastructure Program (SHIP) and former president of Students for Environmental Action (SEA), confirmed that windows remain a problem for students.

"Every year in SHIP we pretty much have someone say, 'We need to replace our windows.' A lot of the dorms are so old and have single-paned windows, which are not very well-insulated," Singh said. "A big thing is trying to replace them with double-paned windows. But that's obviously a very expensive project. The problem is, we have really old buildings on campus which are kind of hard to renovate."

She added that there has been some discus-

sion of trying to add insulation to the sides of the windows as a temporary measure until they can be replaced.

According to Ashley Pennington, the program manager of the Office of Sustainability, the Campus Master Plan outlines cycles of renovating and replacing facilities on campus, which is an ongoing process.

"Many projects aim to use economy of scale, meaning we don't aim to replace a few windows of a building at a time," Pennington wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "Unless there is an issue that requires otherwise, the goal is to plan long term to larger scale renovation projects to consolidate disruption of a space, and be as efficient as possible with time and finances."

Tracey Angel, the director of Housing and Operations, also addressed the issues with heating and insulation in an email to *The News-Letter*.

"There are different HVAC systems in different buildings. Some are heat pumps associated with specific rooms or units, and others are building wide systems. Heat pumps are checked 3 times per year when filters are changed and building wide system are checked annually," she wrote. "Of course, if a problem is called or emailed into the Housing Office, the HVAC system or heat pumps are checked quickly."

Angel added that students should make an effort to learn how the thermostats in their rooms work.

"At move in there were cards in the student living units with heat pumps, which explained how to operate the heat and AC. The instructions are very simple," she wrote. "A common mistake is for students to adjust their temperature setting while it is on cooling in January/February. It should be adjusted on the heat cycle."

Angel encouraged students to report any issues they may be having to the appropriate office.

"Most of the time, if there are window issues, it is related to windows not being completely closed or it is the jam liners. The first thing a student should do is make sure the window is closed by holding the top of the window all the way up when they are locking the window," she wrote. "If there is still a draft problem, we encourage students to call the housing facilities office or go to the Housing and Dining website and report the problem online. Maintenance will follow up and make the necessary repairs."

Although the housing and maintenance offices expect students to report issues they encounter in order to fix the problems, some students have tried to fix the issues themselves. Others feel that trying to get the problems

fixed requires too much effort.

Students who have contacted the Housing Office generally have a positive evaluation of the maintenance they received.

"I think the Housing Office has definitely been very responsive, especially Anthony at the maintenance part of the Housing Office," Koh said.

However, misunderstanding is still common. Kimberly Wang said she reported that a light went out in her room to maintenance, who then replaced a perfectly fine light and left the broken one unfixed.

"I think [the problem] is really getting a good form to submit so that people know what is the right thing to fix," Wang said. Pennington highlighted the importance of communication.

"Our facilities department's first priorities are customer service and making sure campus is operational, safe and comfortable for our students, staff and faculty, such as the round the clock work to clear campus and keep it functional during the recent blizzard," she wrote.

"From the technical side, Facilities has been moving toward a mobile work order system, which helps reduce time required to process and assign work orders to be completed, resulting in quicker response rates, and a lot less paper!"

Community discusses historical link between faiths

By **SABRINA CHEN**
Staff Writer

The second annual Encounters Among Faiths symposium, held in Gilman Hall on Friday, examined the relationships between Muslims, Jews and Christians in the Medieval Mediterranean.

The symposium, attended by several dozen, was organized by people involved in the Program in Islamic Studies and was sponsored by Morris W. Offit, the Chairman of Offit Capital, Class of 1957.

Assistant Professor of Sociology and Islamic Studies Ryan Calder said that it has been a vision of both Offit and the Program in Islamic Studies to understand Islam and the history of Islamic societies in cross-cultural contexts.

"Dean [of the Krieger School of Arts and Sci-

ences] Beverly Wendland mentioned that Mr. Offit feels that understanding relationships among people of different religions in the past is a way in part to shed light on relations today," Calder said.

The program featured two panels and several speakers, including professors from Cornell, Yale and the University of Wisconsin, and specialists from the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Walters Museum. The speakers were broken up by readings of the Quran, Torah and New Testament of the Bible.

The program ended with a Keynote Address by Dimitri Gutas of Yale University about the reception of Aristotelian Science in early Islam between the eighth and 10th centuries C.E. Gutas criticized the current view of the works of Greek scholars like Aristotle and Pythagoras as purely philosophical when in reality they were the first works of critical science ever created.

Gutas outlined how Christian theologians in modern day Syria and Muslim scholars were able to preserve some of the most important works of science and philosophy from antiquity because of

their practical need to learn critical information about medicine and astronomy.

Later, as Islam spread to Spain and Christians and Muslims began to live side by side, those ancient texts were translated into Latin, creating the initial spark for the Renaissance and the consolidation of the scientific method in Europe. If not for those Muslim scholars, many seminal texts would have been lost and scientific development would have been hindered.

"A group of us tried to find some of the best people doing really groundbreaking research on the cultural, intellectual and political exchange among Muslims, Jews and Christians in the medieval period," Calder said. "We were looking for people all over North America who fit into our mandate."

Corie Hoffberger, gift officer for the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences, said the event was open to students, faculty and community members who are affiliated with different synagogues, churches and mosques. She believes attendees got a deeper understanding of the meaning of medieval time and hopes that the event spurred further interest.

"A lot of our speakers are so passionate and curious about these specific subject matters," Hoffberger said. "I hope our students realize they can have a career in this field and study these subject matters really passionately."

Freshman Samantha Gomes attended event, specifically to support Tamer El-Leithy, an assistant professor of history, who spoke on a panel about power and polemics.

"We learned a lot about Islamic, Judaic and Christian architecture and cross-cultural references between artwork," Gomes said. "The event broadcasted a lot of stories that aren't necessarily told as well as alternate views of the period. It was fascinating."

Though senior Charles Jie attended the event for extra credit for a class, he found the speakers engaging and heard many ideas he wouldn't have otherwise been exposed to.

"This was a really rewarding experience," Jie said. "It was also really fascinating to see such a large group of historians and scholars in their natural environment."

Calder said he was thrilled by turnout for the event, which hosted more than one hundred attendees.

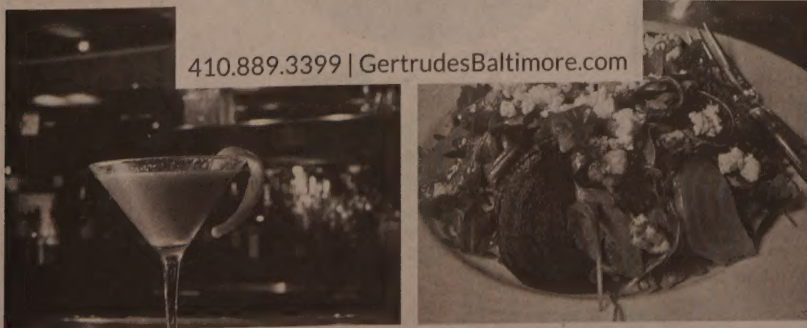
"Most of all I hope that they understand the complexity and nuance of relations among Muslims, Jews and Christians in the medieval Mediterranean — that there was sometimes mutual respect and sometimes not, that there was extensive cultural and intellectual exchange," Calder said. "As scholars, it is our responsibility to understand such exchanges as faithfully as possible and constantly challenge existing ways of thinking about those connections."



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Errata: Feb. 4 Edition

In the Feb. 4, 2016 edition of *The News-Letter*, the article "SGA debates mental health, real food" previously stated that members of the Hopkins Active Minds chapter pay individual dues. However, the chapter pays organizational dues collected through fundraising and individual members do not pay dues.

In the article "Angela Davis denounces mass incarceration," Busola Obitayo's name was misspelled.

In the article "Pres. Obama visits mosque near Baltimore," Muhammad Hudhud was referred to as the president of the Muslim Student Association. He is actually the former vice president.

The News-Letter regrets these errors.

NEWS & FEATURES

CSA holds overflowing Lunar New Year party



CINDY JIANG/PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF
The JHU Yong Han Lion Dance Troupe performed at the celebration.

By **MELISSA CHANG**
For *The News-Letter*

The Chinese Student Association (CSA) rung in the Lunar New Year with over 370 Hopkins students last Friday, pushing the Glass Pavilion to its limit.

Due to the huge turnout, CSA President David Cui said that some students without pre-purchased discount tickets had to be turned away at the door.

"Every year we have a lot of people, but we are at the point that we are getting to be too big for the Glass Pavilion," he said. "This is one of the largest Asian events for the Asian community, [and it] is a good opportunity to meet others and build a stronger Asian community to share our Chinese culture."

CSA invited other Asian cultural groups including the Filipino Student Association (FSA), Hong Kong Students Association (HKSA), the Taiwanese American Students Association (TASA) and the Japanese American Student Association (JASA) to join the celebration. They helped sponsor the event and provide additional dishes.

Cui, a junior, describes the collaboration as a way of celebrating all Asian cultures.

"Lunar New Year is not called a 'Chinese' holiday. It is really important in Chinese culture, but it is also important in other Asian cultures as well," he said.

The event also featured performances by the Hopkins Breakers, the JHU Yong Han Lion Dance Troupe, the JHU Humming Jay and Music Dynasty. The JHU Yong Han Lion Dance Troupe's performance is a popular request, especially during the New Year celebrations, and troupe president Margot Hultz said that she enjoyed performing at the event.

"It was pretty fun. Lion dance is... really close to my heart," she said. "We're really happy that CSA had such a turnout. It was a lot more crowded than we were expecting."

To accommodate the scope of the event, Cui delegated tasks like booking rooms, writing grants and publicizing the event to the 50-member CSA board. Cui explained that they looked to previous years' events to learn and improve.

"In previous years a lot of the food ran out very quickly because we had so many people. This year we... ordered around \$2,000 of food. We also used the wristband system to call people... to get

food," he said.

The promise of catered food and various performances attracted many students, but some were unsatisfied with the wait for food.

"Since they had run the event multiple times, I felt they should have been better prepared... and better managed the mishap of late food delivery," senior Eric Ong wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

Despite the late food delivery, Cui believes the club handled it well. To stall the dinner, the CSA board worked to rearrange the performance times.

"The food arrived two hours late. It was out of [our] control, but we adjusted and adapted," he said. "I'm really proud of my board because they were very hardworking."

Students were able to still enjoy the event and take away an appreciation for the culture. CSA Programming Chair Victoria Lui said her mission was to increase cultural awareness. She worked to help develop a trivia quiz to make the event more than just a food event.

"When you ask about Chinese culture, there's always [people who say] 'oh those foods. I know General Tso sells chicken but don't really know about the traditions or cultures,'" Lui said.

In addition to the cultural quiz, the CSA board worked to post various cultural tidbits about the event in the days leading up to it.

The appreciation for culture resonated well with students. Freshman Vanessa Richards said that she attended the event in order to learn.

"It's just really cool to learn and experience different cultures. Hopkins is a pretty diverse place for the most part, so I might as well learn about the people that I'm going to school [with]," she said.

For others, like freshman Sophia Song, the event was another example of how Hopkins creates a home away from home for its students.

"Because my family always celebrated at home, I wanted a place to celebrate at school too," she said. "It was very welcoming. It felt like home."

For next semester, Cui said that students can anticipate an Iron Chef event with several different cultural groups competing as well as a collaboration with the Buddhist Student Association to explore the intersection between religion and culture.

Activities fair moves to the Breezeway

SIW FROM A1

were too busy of an area to be an effective space for raising awareness about clubs.

"They're going to classes," sophomore Tony Kim, secretary of Robotics Club, said. "So they probably don't have a lot of time to chit chat or get to know more about the club."

Though the Rec Center is farther away, Kim said, everyone knows to go there when an activities fair is happening. At SIW, his group was facing the problem of not being able to reach their target demographic.

"It's kind of hurtful to the engineering side of the club because the engineering quad is all the way over there, so the engineers we're trying to target are really not coming around this region," he said.

Freshman Jocelyn Kim, whose classes took her by the Breezeway several times during the week, noted that there were not very many students who stopped to talk to the various groups stationed there.

"I spend my day walking up and down the Breezeway on my way to class," she said. "I noticed the tables set up, but I wasn't really able to stop and look around because I was in a hurry."

After the event, Shambry said he learned that there was a significant difference between a fair setup in the Rec Center versus tabling at the Breezeway.

"I'm getting the feeling that tabling is a different environment and that tabling may not be the best way," Shambry said. "I took it as if tabling at the Breezeway is almost similar to tabling in the Rec Center because it's still sitting at a table — you're doing the exact same thing, just not in a closed environment."

Nitin Nainani, president of the College Republicans, did not think that the new format on the Breezeway was an improvement from the Rec Center.

"I think splitting the fair up into several smaller sessions reduced turnout, and the lousy weather certainly didn't do anyone any favor either," Nainani wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "I'm also not sure if there was enough advertising for the event. I know having it in the Rec Center and on one day was flawed in its own way, but I personally think that's the better option. Having all (or most) of the groups in one place at one time is just easier, I think."

The women's rugby club, though, had more success at their table.

"Our recruiting process was different in the spring, but having the opportunity to recruit in the center of campus was really exciting," sophomore Allie Bull, president and captain of the team, said. "Overall the event seems to have been a success and all of our groups got lots of attention from students as they passed by."

Sophomore Hirsh Shekhar, editor-in-chief of the *Hopkins Undergraduate Research Journal* (HURJ), thought SIW was most effective for groups that wanted to publicize their name and activities.

"I think for the fall the SAC fair really makes a

lot of sense because it's a one-stop shop to see everything that Hopkins offers," he said. "But in the spring, when people are less likely to go to the Rec Center to find new clubs, this is a cool way to get your name out there in a very public place where people will still see you."

Shekhar said that the format was not conducive to talking with and recruiting new members, but like many other groups, HURJ primarily focuses on fall recruitment.

The second component of Student Involvement Week was a showcase of student organizations on Wednesday evening, Feb. 3. Every group that registered for SIW nominated another within their category to give a three-to-four-minute presentation at the showcase. The goal of the event was to provide all types of student groups with a chance to be recognized and put their work on display, an opportunity which is more commonly open to the performing arts groups.

"We want to find ways to recognize the great work groups are doing,

not just at the awards ceremony at the end of the year," Shambry said.

In front of a nearly empty Glass Pavilion, student leaders talked briefly about their groups' activities, missions and upcoming events. Excluding those presenting, there were fewer than five attendees.

"Attendance-wise, it didn't go so well," Shambry said. "I'm not too sure why people weren't there — we did market it."

Nainani presented for the College Republicans at the showcase and thought that the idea was well-intended but that the event did not turn out well. "I think the concept is

great, and in general, I'm glad to see more promotion of student groups and their activities," he wrote. "But I think the timing, weather, and inadequate advertising hurt turnout."

Nainani praised Shambry's efforts, though, in planning the SIW and finding an alternative to the Student Involvement Fair.

"[Shambry] is very enthusiastic and very helpful," he wrote, "and I know he put a lot of time into both the fair and the show-

case. I think we're very lucky to have his support for our organizations."

Poor marketing for both the showcase and the tabling was a common concern among students. SIW was advertised primarily through Today's Announcements, OrcaTV and emails to student organization leaders, though none to the general student body.

Shambry did send one email to all students with a Hopkins Groups account in the middle of the week informing them of the showcase and the remainder of the week's tabling.

"My goal for organizations is that you would also do some of the marketing yourselves for the fair," he said. "I think it's a shared marketing because my goal is to support you all, but it's also your opportunity to market your organization."

Shambry plans to attempt a showcase again, possibly in both the fall and spring next year.

"I thought it was a great opportunity for people to talk about what they're doing and for us to learn about what others are doing," he said. "Obviously there are some things we want to do better like figuring out how we can get people into the space."

He's open to the idea of other formats, though, and will be seeking formal feedback before moving forward.

Melanie Levine contributed reporting.

Saturday Feb. 13
4-7pm

Martin Arts Center, Jones 101
JHU Homewood Campus
Charles and 33rd St.

RESEARCH REMIX

Kickoff Reception

Meet the artists and researchers participating in Research Remix:
An interdisciplinary collaboration between JHU students/faculty and artists throughout Baltimore.

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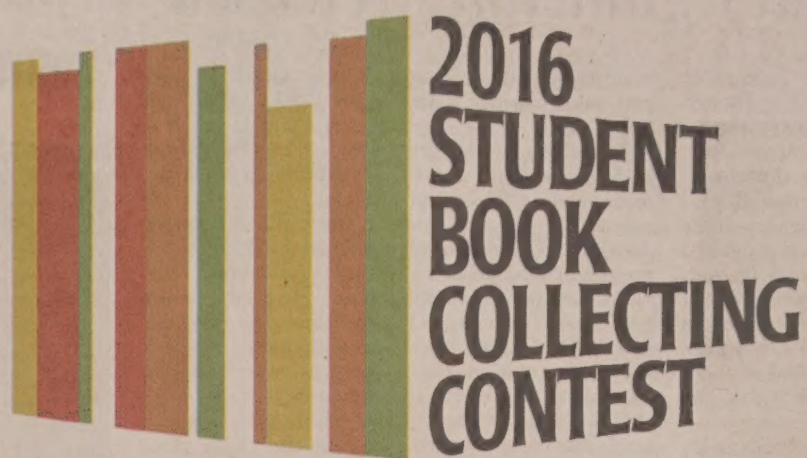
TIM PHELPS: Nature Mandalas

>> Artist Talk <<
Join JHMI faculty Tim Phelps for a short talk about his mandala artwork and his new two-volume book series: "Nature Mandalas: Life Circles of Biodiversity and Conservancy."

>> Workshop <<
Then participate in a hands-on workshop and make your own mandala. Participants may bring their own materials to collage. Turn old textbooks, assignments, or papers into original artwork! Materials also provided.

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2015 U.S. dietary guidelines released



Tara Abrishami
Food for Thought

Let's talk about the new United States Dietary Guidelines. The guidelines come out once every five years and are meant to inform U.S. health professionals and policymakers about the official U.S. nutritional recommendations. While there are some significant changes since the 2010 Dietary Guidelines, there are also some flaws. Marion Nestle writes in her blog *Food Politics*, "Count the 2015 Guidelines as a win for the meat, sugary drink, processed, and junk food industries." Not exactly a winning endorsement. Others, however, claim that the new guidelines align with current research and make sense in the context of the food scene today.

One of the most significant changes in the new guidelines is the recommendation to limit added sugars to less than 10 percent of total daily calories. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has already recommended the same limit and the World Health Organization (WHO) recommends limiting sugar

to only five percent of daily calories. Though the 2015 Dietary Guidelines' recommendation on added sugar isn't necessarily groundbreaking, it is the first time the guidelines provide a numerical limit to added sugars, which many people praise. Nestle was quick to note however, "added sugars' is a euphemism for sodas and other sugar-sweetened beverages." Presumably due to the lobbying influence of the soda industry, the guidelines don't explicitly recommend limiting sugary drinks. Realistically the added sugar

building healthy eating patterns." No idea what that means.

The ambiguity in the 2015 guidelines' statement about cholesterol reflects the general uncertainty surrounding the dietary cholesterol, which has conventionally been seen as a nutritional evil. Recent studies have shown that dietary cholesterol has little relationship to the blood cholesterol that is frequently cited as a key player in heart disease. Conflicting opinions as to whether or not dietary cholesterol should be limited still exist. Apparently the U.S.

These claims remain controversial and have not reached the radar of major recommendations such as the U.S. Dietary Guidelines.

The most disappointing part of the new Dietary Guidelines isn't what changed, which was mostly in parallel with recent research, but what didn't change. For example, total physical activity guidelines remain the same. However, the guidelines report that only around 20 percent of adults actually meet the recommended 60 minutes of moderate physical activity a day. The guidelines mention spending less time in front of screens and being less sedentary but don't specify whether those are independent recommendations or ways to exercise more. The lack of elaboration with respect to physical inactivity is especially frustrating given all the recent research suggesting the whole host of health problems that a sedentary lifestyle could cause.

The guidelines also don't explicitly mention limiting red meat despite recent revelations that red meat plays a role in exacerbating or even causing serious health conditions such as cancer.

In short, the new Dietary Guidelines are relatively similar to the nutritional advice most of us are already familiar with, though they did address some especially controversial topics such as dietary cholesterol and saturated fats. All nutritional advice is controversial and essentially no recommendations other than, "eat your fruits and vegetables" are entirely unchallenged. (You could probably even find people who challenge certain fruits and vegetables.) The most important takeaway from the 2015 Dietary Guidelines is that, while the government and the food industry both influence each other and play large roles in your nutritional choices, you should turn to a variety of resources and do your own research when making decisions about your health.

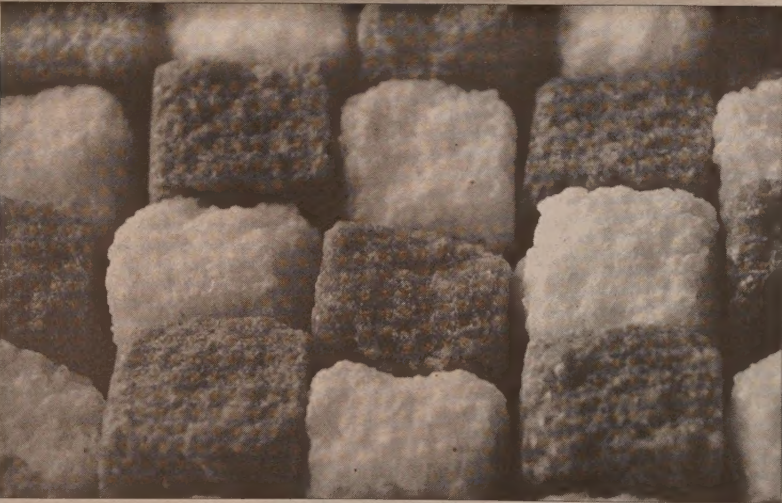
You should turn to a variety of resources when making decisions about your health.

Dietary Guidelines haven't figured it out yet.

Another controversial dietary element is saturated

fat. The jury still debates on whether or not saturated fats pose a health threat, but the 2015 Dietary Guidelines stick to the 2010 limit of less than 10 percent of daily calories from saturated fats.

The rest of the recommendations are familiar: Increase fruits and vegetables, increase whole grains to 50 percent of total grains, consume primarily low-fat dairy products, etc. A few recent reports, including a book called *Grain Brain*, claim that grains like wheat should be limited.



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The 2015 U.S. Dietary Guidelines suggest limiting added sugars to 10 percent of your daily calories.

Stand-up comedy, women and coping



MISS WRIGHT/CC BY 2.0

Chelsea Peretti is best known for her role on *Brooklyn Nine-Nine*.



Gillian Lelchuk
Sophomoric

compared to the number of male comedians there are like six women. Yes that is an exact number (not really).

Where did the idea that women aren't funny come from? Why do women need to prove themselves again and again with films like *Bridesmaids*, *The Heat* and *Trainwreck*? Tina Fey and Amy Poehler essentially conquered the Golden Globes as well as NBC.

Even at Hopkins where we boast a probably very admirable statistic about our men to women ratio, the Intersession stand-up class of 20 only had seven girls. That was an improvement from previous years when the highest number of girls was four, but still. Why aren't girls told they're funny?

I for one am hilarious. This is definitely a direct result of my having little to no other redeeming qualities. I have the unique ability to make any situation approximately 800 times more awkward than it was before I showed up so I have learned to cope through humor. But some people hear that I'm funny — I don't know how that gets out, it's not like I readily advertise that through a column in a newspaper — and then people ask me to tell a joke.

Comedy isn't that easy folks. I can't just "tell" you a joke. It's gotta be the right time. So much has to fall in place for me to be funny, but, lucky for me, that happens all the time.

That's why I have so much respect for stand-up comics. They don't get any circumstance or situational comedy to rely on. They write all of that beforehand and hope it's funny and hope that audiences will respond to that. And that is at once the bravest and the dumbest thing anyone could do ever.

See, like, it's brave because you're not only sharing something you've written — which is something I do biweekly — but you're getting a live reaction. Which is also why it's so dumb. If you're not actually funny and you just think you are because you have two friends who tell you how funny you are (this is not about me), you are going to find out immediately. Because no one is going to laugh.

Maybe that's why Chelsea Peretti planted dogs in her audience. And Chelsea Handler brought her dogs onstage. But they're actually funny and don't need dogs as a backup plan.

Sometimes Hopkins feels like a four-year-long stand-up show. I'm up in front of a huge audience of professors and grad schools and my parents, and I'm just waiting for them to laugh but no one is laughing because grades aren't actually as funny as I wish they were.

Valentine's Day Polls This Week on Whatsgoodly

Plans for Valentine's Day?

1

With that special someone	30%
With friends	26%
By myself in bed with chocolate	27%
Idk if I'm even in a relationship	17%

88 votes • 10h

What's your ideal Valentine's date?

0

Netflix and chill	10%
Dinner and a movie	23%
A romantic surprise	22%
Just spending time together	44%

77 votes • 11h

HIP HOP

BUT ALSO observations, lists, thoughts, feelings, missed connections, haikus, confessions, furtive glances and of course, sex.

Do standards of beauty help or hurt?



Alexis Sears
Fight Me

At a party last week my friend and I got on the subject of physical appearance. About halfway through the conversation she said something I had heard a million times before: Everyone is beautiful.

I am probably about to offend a bunch of people but I'll take the risk. I don't know where this idea came from about how every single person on the entire planet is beautiful. Is everyone attractive to someone? Sure. But though I'm skeptical that everyone is a knock-out beauty, I don't think that everyone is a ghastly ogre either. Most of us fall somewhere in the middle.

I personally think that physical beauty is rare and that's why it is so coveted. And that's okay because beauty is something with which you're either born or you're not. It has absolutely nothing to do with who you are.

Regardless of what you believe, the comment is actually incredibly telling about our society. "Everyone is beautiful" is a well-meaning statement of course, but I think it could actually be harmful. Here's the problem: Saying that everyone is beautiful perpetuates the idea that beauty is the most important characteristic a person can possess. Commercials, magazines and even pop songs tell us that we need to be beautiful to be worthy.

Bruno Mars's "Just the Way You Are" describes his lady's lovely body parts as opposed to — I don't know — anything about her that will be relevant when they're married with children 40 years later. One Direction's "What Makes You Beautiful" discusses how awesome it is that such a hot chick could be totally unaware of her hotness to the point that she stares at the ground out of insecurity! As long as she's beautiful nothing else matters.

When was the last time you heard someone say, "Everyone is compassionate and kind" or, "Everyone has fantastic taste in music"? Don't the internal characteristics matter most? I know I would prefer hearing, "You are so funny!" to "You really

won the genetic lottery!"

Let's face it: There are people out there whom society does not consider beautiful. Does that make them less deserving of happiness and prosperity? No. Does it make them less likely to live happy lives? No. Average-looking people find love and success all the time. On the flip side the emphasis on beauty takes those with symmetrical faces who also have other qualities to offer the world and reduces them down to merely their looks.

I do not by any means imply that we should cease to care about our physical appearances. I'm the first to admit that I love makeup and shopping and the confidence I have on a good hair day is fantastic. Be confident about how you look! But also be confident about more than how you look.

What if instead of focusing on how our bodies look in that beach photo on Instagram we focused on how we made other people feel? What if we accepted that our noses are a little big but that we could write a sestina that moved a professor to tears or managed to pull off an 'A' in that brutal physics class that had been destroying us all semester? Or better yet, what if we focused less on ourselves entirely?

The emergence of social media has created a generation of posturing and self-obsession. We are constantly picking and choosing what we want people to see, whether it be a selfie with just the right filter or a witty status that's been drafted several times before it was posted. Not only does this create implicit and unhealthy comparison among colleagues, but it also creates an obsession with image and perfection. But people aren't perfect. Isn't that what makes life fun?

Let's look outward rather than inward. By this I mean that the world has a ton of beauty to offer. Instead, of trying to be the beauty, I like to admire and appreciate the beauty that I am fortunate enough to encounter such as a friend's laugh, Christmas lights or a beautiful plate of pancakes. (I'm more of a French toast girl, but you get the idea.)

So no, calling a girl beautiful will probably not infuriate her or cause her to lie awake in agony. But remember that pretty fades. The idiosyncrasies, the witticisms, the kind gestures — now those are the things that matter.

Oreos: Milk's favorite cookie and ours



Hayley Bronner
Throwback Thursday

February is a time for comfort food. With Valentine's Day around the corner, no date to dine with and summer bodies too far away to think about, it is the perfect time to indulge. A great choice for calorie splurging is a pack of Oreos. It is a perfect option that reminds us of our childhood. Who doesn't remember coming home from school in the afternoon and grabbing a handful of Oreos and a tall glass of milk? Oreos are probably the food that most consistent in our lives from the time we could eat solid food to college. "Milk's favorite cookie" will always be our favorite snack!

People are not exactly

sure where the name Oreo came from, but one theory is that it was named from the Greek word "Oreo," which means beautiful, nice or well done. (I can definitely understand why that term applies to these perfect cookies.) Nonetheless Nabisco (or the National Biscuit Company) first trademarked the name Oreo and sold the first cookie in March 1912. At the time it was called the "Oreo Biscuit" until 1921 when it was called the "Oreo Sandwich." Today it is called the "Oreo Chocolate Sandwich Cookie," which did not appear in ads until 1974. Back in their early days Nabisco sold a pound of Oreos for only 25 cents. I'm sure we all wish they were still that price so we could buy enough Oreos as could possibly fit on the adjacent seat on the Blue Jay Shuttle!

Thankfully Oreos have gotten a few nutritional upgrades over the years. The original Oreos were produced with crème containing lard. Health concerns in the early '90s challenged

Nabisco, so they replaced the lard with partially hydrogenated vegetable oil in the filling. Escalating concerns then prompted them again in January 2006 to fully replace the trans fat in the cookies and use non-hydrogenated vegetable oil in the famous crème.

Oreos were a favorite for everybody at any young age and still are our favorite pick-me-up at CharMar. There are tons of varieties to choose from at any given moment. One option that many of us won't remember is the Big Stuf Oreo. These cookies were sold individually and were multiple times the size of a regular Oreo. They were discontinued in 1991. The most popular options today include Double Stuf Oreos, Mini Oreos, Chocolate Oreos and Birthday Cake Oreos (which were originally limited edition but came back due to popular demand).

A personal favorite of mine are the Spring, Halloween and Christmas annual special editions, which feature colored crème and designs depending on the occasion. The yellow Spring cookies are cheery, while the orange Halloween editions get me ready for autumn. The red and green Christmas Oreos exude the Christmas spirit.

Since 2012 Nabisco has come out with many odd flavors of Oreos including Neapolitan, Caramel Apple, Pumpkin Spice and Root Beer Float Oreos. The latest edition is the Cinnamon Bun Oreo, which was just released last month. This cookie features two cinnamon flavored wafers with cinnamon crème.

Trying all of these new flavors is part of the fun though we always tend to return to the original!

The worst possible decision that one could make is to buy Oreo Thins. They were released in 2015 as thinner versions of the original cookie. They are 66 percent thinner so there are 33 percent less in each package, but they cost the same price as the original. Basically you're spending the same amount of money but are getting much less joy out of Oreo Thins. If you are craving Oreos, just go for the real thing. It is borderline offensive and not worth the pain to put this unappetizing cookie in your mouth, when there are probably Double Stuf Oreos on the shelf right next to it.

There are tons of ways to eat an Oreo (or 10 Oreos)! Everybody has their favorite way to eat their favorite cookie. Mine is to soak the Oreo in a cup of milk until it is soft. Some people twist the layers apart. Some just eat the filling. Many dip the cookie into something else such as peanut butter or chocolate milk. There is no wrong or right way to eat an Oreo.

Now that the grievances about Oreos are out in the air we can enjoy our favorites. Oreos will always be a part of our lives regardless of where we live, our age or what crazy flavors they come out with next! A great thing to do is buy a new flavor, gather a bunch of friends and try out the new Oreo. Don't forget the glass of milk! Remember it's "milk's favorite cookie" for a reason!



MIHODA/CC-BY-2.0

Oreos will always be a part of our lives, no matter how old we are.

Herodotus' Histories and its reliability



Rollin Hu
Irrelevant History

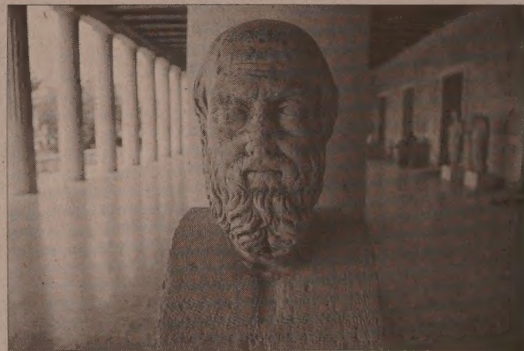
This is part one of my 50,000 part series titled "Important Years in Human History." The interesting year for this week is 440 B.C.

I'm not entirely sure what happened in 440 B.C. I'm not sure if anyone really knows what happened then. When things are that far in the past they get hazy, so much of this is probably false. But something important to know about history is that what actually happened doesn't always matter — what people believed to have happened arguably matters more. One thing that supposedly happened in 440 B.C. was that Democritus tried cutting cheese an infinite amount of times and hypothesized the existence of atoms from that experience (that was a fart joke). Another thing that supposedly happened in the same year was the publication of *Histories* by "Father of History" Herodotus.

Histories is noted to have begun the modern study of history which is kind of a big deal because without the study of history my column would probably just be pictures of Joe Biden eating ice

cream. The actual content of the book is beyond both the scope of this column and my patience, so here is an extremely abridged summary. From 499 B.C. to 449 B.C., Persia and Greece had a couple of wars collectively known as the Greco-Persian Wars. Persia was big and wanted to be bigger. Greek city states wanted to stay Greek city states. So they fought. That probably means little to you except those wars had some pretty memorable events. During these wars there was the Battle of Marathon where the first world-record marathon time was supposedly set. There was also the Battle of Thermopylae which is the basis of the extremely historically accurate 2006 movie *300*.

Herodotus was able to write this account of the Greco-Persian Wars by traveling throughout Greece and Asia Minor. He listened to all the stories from people about the wars in a systematic way, which is something no one else had really done before. By compiling all these different accounts Herodotus set the standard for historians to research the past and create messages for people to remember. Did he really though? Another name that has been used to describe Herodotus is the "Father of Lies." Critics such as Thucydides, the guy who wrote *The History of the Peloponnesian War*, argue that Herodotus stuck a ton of folklore and fables into the historical



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Herodotus is known by most as the father of modern history.

narrative to make it seem more interesting.

It is also noted that Herodotus's *Histories* were actually recited at gatherings like the Olympic Games to entertain people. Can a work like that be reliable? Does *Histories* even have histories? There is quite an intense argument going on between historians throughout history regarding the accuracy of Herodotus's work. Some archaeological studies have provided evidence for some of the more contentious statements Herodotus makes. But Herodotus also makes a lot of statements about how the Gods intervened in human affairs, which has not been proven as of now.

Using *Histories* to understand the history of the fifth century would be kind of like using the musical *Hamilton* to understand the American Revolution. *Hamilton* is pretty good and entertaining except it shouldn't really be the only source you cite when studying

the American Revolution. I don't think anyone can have a definitive answer on how accurate *Histories* is, but the best answer I've found so far is that we might as well use this work because it's all we got.

Today, how we record our history is crucial. People in the future are going to use the content we produce now to judge our lifestyles and decisions or make their own choices so we better record our history right. There wasn't a comprehensive historical record on Democritus and now people remember him for trying to cut the cheese an infinite amount of times (and also beginning the study of atomic theory). The cheese part is most definitely incorrect, yet it was still taught in elementary school science class to the delight of students across America and to the detriment of Democritus's legacy. So if you do end up doing something of historical significance, be sure that the history books get it right.



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"What Makes You Beautiful" highlights beauty and insecurity.

the johns hopkins

NEWS-LETTER

Editorials

Student Involvement Week: ineffective and poorly publicized

The office of Student Leadership and Involvement (SLI) moved this spring's activities fair from the Rec Center to the Breezeway and lengthened the event to a full week. The new format, called Student Involvement Week, lasted from Feb. 1-5 and included tabling at the Breezeway and a Student Organization Showcase on Wednesday. Each category of student groups — Advocacy and Awareness, Performing Arts, etc. — was assigned a day to set up tables at the Breezeway and attract students passing by.

The Editorial Board recognizes the reason behind these changes: The SLI wanted to create a stronger sense of community by integrating these student groups into the heart of campus. However we believe that these changes, as well-intentioned as they were, greatly diminished the quality and effectiveness of student groups' recruitment efforts.

Firstly, the club tables were outdoors in the middle of winter. Passing students were contending with snowdrifts and the biting cold — not formidable conditions to stop and chat. The weather was even less pleasant for club officers who had to sit and man tables.

Second, the Breezeway is not a place for extended conversation; it is the area of highest foot traffic on campus. Most students walking on the Breezeway are on their way to class and likely do not have time to spare — their mindset is to get to class, not stop and learn about a club. If a lot of students had participated and stopped at tables, as was intended, this would have hindered foot traffic and clogged the way.

Third, because the schedule was poorly publicized and the event a week

long, it was difficult for students to find a given group. An element of what makes the traditional activities fair so accessible is that students walk into the fair's location without an agenda and simply peruse the tables, possibly ending up speaking to a group previously unbeknownst to them.

With advertising primarily through Today's Announcements and without any emails to the general student body, students weren't familiar with the schedule, or didn't even know that Student Involvement Week was going on. An event of this importance needs to be publicized well, and because this was an entirely new format, an extra strong publicity effort was needed to make sure that both students and student organization leaders understood the changes.

The new format of this event is impractical, and there are simply too many factors that prevent this event from being successful. Part of the rationale behind making the campus involvement session a week long was that the Rec Center was short on room for all campus groups. We contend that is not sufficient. We're glad that this fall's activities fair will still be in the Rec Center, albeit with groups sharing tables, but we suggest that the SLI take advantage of the auxiliary gyms in the Athletic Center in addition to the Rec Center space in order to house all student groups under the same roof during a four-hour period. This could provide enough room for any overflow created by the fair's presence in the Rec Center. Next year, we hope that the SLI formats their student involvement initiative as a one-time indoor event under one roof.

Chilly winters shouldn't invade dorms

As winter brings dropping temperatures to Baltimore and Homewood, students are raising concerns regarding their on-campus housing experiences. Issues range from insufficient hot water to poor insulation around the dorm windows, which are often directly next to students' beds. Intermittent or occasional maintenance issues are bound to occur in any building, but the frequency and severity of the issues that occur inside the dorms — such as room temperatures dropping below 50 degrees Fahrenheit at night — should justify spending the necessary money to complete large-scale repairs.

Students are required to live in on-campus dorm buildings during their freshman and sophomore years, increasing the frustration felt when their experiences are subpar. Due to the ages of some of the dorm buildings, fixing these issues would not necessarily be quick or easy. Even Wolman Hall, which was recently updated in its interior, may have building-wide issues that need to be addressed. However the benefit of students' comfort and safety should render the inconvenience of repairs worthwhile.

Replacing the dorm windows with newer, double-paned windows would require significant planning and funding, but this renovation would be a valuable improvement to the current problem of frequent drafts, which prove especially problematic in the winter. It makes neither logistic nor economic sense to take a piecemeal approach to replacing these windows, and although the prospect of a project as large as this is daunting, it is possible. Gaps exist between semesters as do periods during academic breaks during when residence halls are not occupied by many students,

and these intervals provide an opportunity for renovation.

The potential for inconvenience should not deter the University from providing students with comfortable living arrangements in the buildings provided for required on-campus housing. Efficiency is important in tackling large-scale projects such as replacing the dorm windows, but the benefit to the student body outweighs the disruption. Especially given the high price of mandatory on-campus housing, the repeated issues of lacking heat and hot water deserve to be addressed. Sufficiently insulated windows are a necessity for the frigid weather that spans a significant portion of the academic year, so fixing these issues should be budgeted if students are required to live on-campus.

More broadly, inconveniences may arise in any housing situation in the winter, and anticipating possible problems or periods of higher complaints would be helpful for responding more efficiently to said complaints. If the maintenance department receives a greater influx of complaints during the winter, they should adapt to this pattern and prepare to tackle it. Thankfully, individual maintenance cases are usually handled quickly and correctly.

While it is students' responsibility to report any issues they find with their dorms, short-term fixes can only go so far. Case-by-case maintenance requests are important, but they will not be sufficient in keeping up with the issues of aging apartment buildings. The larger, more systemic issues such as building-wide heating deficiencies and outdated windows should be permanently and proactively addressed rather than temporarily patched.

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the johns hopkins

NEWS-LETTER

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The News-Letter

The Gatehouse

(on the corner of N. Charles Street
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The Johns Hopkins News-Letter is published every Thursday during the academic year by the undergraduate students of The Johns Hopkins University with the exception of holidays, exam periods and vacations. The views expressed herein, including opinions and columns, do not necessarily represent those of the editorial board. All submissions become property of *The News-Letter* and will be included on *The News-Letter's* website, www.jhnewsletter.com.

Business hours are Mondays through Fridays, 1-5 p.m. The deadline for advertisements is 5 p.m. on the Monday before the Thursday of publication. The total circulation to the local campuses of Johns Hopkins (Homewood, Medical School and Hospital, Peabody), area colleges and the greater Baltimore region is 5,000.

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OPINIONS

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Don't be afraid to transfer; It's not scary

BY SARAH STOCKMAN

The spring semester has just begun, and some of you are feeling the pressure. I don't mean the pressure of classes, I mean the pressure to fit in at Hopkins, to be happy, to make friends. Is this the second, third or fourth semester you've tried to convince yourself that this semester will be better than those previous? Do you find that, despite joining numerous clubs, you still feel as though you and Hopkins just don't mesh?

I felt this way two years ago. I had tried unsuccessfully to make my tenure at the University of Pittsburgh work. I'd made an effort to engage with my peers, hang out with friends and become part of the Pitt community. However, I still felt like an outsider. I'd continually told myself that the next semester would be better. I'd told myself that I'd be done with another set of requirements and so could take more interesting classes or that I wasn't a freshman anymore, so life would get better. The more I tried to make Pitt work, the harder it got and the more I realized that Pitt was not the place for me.

When I'd first gotten to Pitt, I hadn't felt welcome. I still can't tell you exactly what was wrong, but there was something about me that didn't fit into the atmosphere at Pitt (or the other way around, if you'd like). I felt isolated and judged. College was supposed to be this amazing place where you learned a lot about yourself and the world and, of course, had lots of fun in the process. My friends from high school kept telling me that college was the greatest thing that had ever happened to them. I couldn't understand why I wasn't having the same experience.

After much thinking, talking to professors, crying and researching I came to the realization that transferring was my best option. It was a terrifying idea. What if I didn't get into another school? What if Pitt was actually the right school for me and I just wasn't

trying hard enough? What if people would hate me for leaving? On top of these doubts, I would have to do the Common App again. However, I convinced myself that it was a worthwhile idea, my rationale being that the worst that could happen was that I would remain at Pitt.

Despite my acknowledgment that Pitt wasn't the right school for me, it was still hard for me to decide to transfer. Looking back, there were some obvious signs that something was wrong, but I couldn't see them at the time. I've listed some of them below in the hopes that they might help you make a decision about your future at Hopkins:

I found myself spending a ton of time watching random shows on Netflix. And by a ton of time I mean all the time I wasn't in class or sleeping. I went through three seasons of *Scandal* in a matter of days. This wasn't during a blizzard weekend or a break, but during school when I was supposed to be studying or spending some time outside of my bed.

I never wore my school's gear. This may sound inconsequential, but next time you're walking around campus, notice how many people are wearing Hopkins hats, T-shirts, sweatshirts and sweatpants. I did own a Pitt a sweatshirt and sweatpants, but I didn't ever wear them. It was like I couldn't bring myself to support the school. Some part of my subconscious knew how unhappy I was before I really did.

I was bored in my classes. My lack of challenge led to me slacking off and getting some of the worst grades of my school career. I felt like I was just floating along, doing enough work to get by, but not being pushed to do any better. It wasn't a feeling I enjoyed.

People were constantly asking me why a girl from Los Angeles would want to go to school in Pittsburgh. Why not? Isn't the point of being young to explore the world? Yes, LA is cool, but so are other places, even Pittsburgh. I felt like my peers didn't think I belonged

at the school. I was so foreign that they could not comprehend why I was there, which did not help my feeling of isolation.

I was unhappy. I didn't notice how unhappy I was until I got to Hopkins and my dad asked whether anything was wrong because I sounded so chipper. At Pitt I was sick more often than not, I called my parents every day, sometimes twice a day, and I was depressed. I really was trying to make Pitt work, but the school and I just inherently did not get along.

If any of these sound familiar to you, you might want to rethink Hopkins. Transferring was one of the best decisions I've ever made. I was scared when I transferred because I thought people would judge me for leaving or for coming, for that matter, but I found that my friends, professors and new peers were very open to the idea and supported my decision.

The transfer deadline for most universities is in a month. That means that if you're a freshman or a sophomore who's unhappy at Hopkins, it's time for you to decide whether Hopkins is really the right place for you. Yes it's prestigious and very well known, but that isn't a good enough reason to stay. If you're interested in transferring, talk to your advisor, a peer or a professor you trust. Look into schools you might potential apply to. What I found most helpful was contacting the head of the department I was most interested in at a school I was looking into and asking them a bunch of questions. Many of them put me in touch with students who in turn gave me a different perspective.

What's most important to know is that transferring is okay. No one is going to judge you or tell you you're making the wrong choice. You should not be unhappy for four years, so make the decision to transfer. I promise you won't regret it.

Sarah Stockman is a senior Writing Seminars major from Los Angeles.

The Bachelor might be onto something about love

BY AISHWARYA RAJE

I wish I could say I have no time for reality television. I wish I were so busy with work and studying that I simply do not have time to watch shows that are the antithesis of intellectual curiosity. Unfortunately, every week I religiously watch, and feel like I'm actively participating in, the cultural phenomenon that is *The Bachelor*.

Why do I like watching *The Bachelor* so much? More importantly, why do I have opinions about what happens on *The Bachelor*? These are questions I ask myself in the effort to prove that yes, I realize it is an inherently absurd show and yes, I am embarrassed that I am so invested in it.

The simple answer is that *The Bachelor* is a silly show that's fun to watch when I want to unwind after a long week. This is true, but it doesn't fully capture my fascination with the franchise. When I take a step back and think about it, there's absolutely no reason why I should care whether Ben Higgins, a 26-year-old man from Indiana whom I will most likely never come in contact with, will find his soul mate. As a woman who is not much younger than many of the contestants on the show, I should probably take affront to the fact that this guy is "dating" over ten women at the same time and thinks of it as acceptable behavior. (Is this supposed to be justified by the fact that *The Bachelorette* also exists? That's a question for another time.) The entire



MEGAN DONNELLY/FOR THE NEWS-LETTER

premise of *The Bachelor* makes a mockery of romantic relationships and creates a false image of what love actually is.

Or does it?

Maybe *The Bachelor* is onto something. Though our present-day dating culture may tell us otherwise, it's not completely unnatural for people to get to know each other with the very clear expectation that they will get married. Take my parents, for example. They did not meet in a cute, spontaneous, romantic-comedy scenario. Like most people in India at the time, they had an arranged marriage and have been happily married for 26 years. Not that I am comparing my parents' marriage to Ben's quest for love in a sea of random women chosen by ABC, but there's something to be said for portraying the development of a loving relationship in a way that pop culture doesn't normally expose to us. True love and understanding is not always about chance encounters or falling for the person "who's been there all along," which might just be what's so entertaining about *The Bachelor*.

Out of the 19 seasons of *The Bachelor* and *The Bachelorette*, only five couples who ended up together at the end of their seasons have gotten married. To me, this statistic seems surprisingly low yet surprisingly high. There is so much that is wrong with the show, from racial homogeneity to the portrayal of love as being simply a competition, yet five couples have gotten married because of it. We don't know what will happen with these relationships in the future, but it seems as though people were still able to fall in love under the ridiculous circumstances that *The Bachelor/Bachelorette* present.

I still don't truly understand why I watch and enjoy the show so much. Maybe it's because love is always a great thing to witness, maybe it's a commentary on the unexpected ways one can fall in love that draws me in, or maybe it's a multimillion-dollar franchise that tricks people like me into thinking there's something more to it than 20 women inexplicably fawning over a man they hardly know. Probably the latter, and I should just accept that I've fallen victim to it. However, I do believe that there is a deeper reason as to why millions of people tune in every week. Plus Ben seems like a nice-enough guy. Why shouldn't we want him to find love?

Aishwarya Raje is a senior International Studies major from Princeton, NJ.

The rest of the world stereotypes Americans too

BY SOFIA DIEZ

It's Jan. 2, everyone in the room is jet lagged, and, of course, London's classic rain soaked everyone on the way to the conference. The administrators of the abroad program wait for us to grab our cups of coffee, ignoring the tea like the Americans we are, and pick through the assortment of cookies, or rather, *biscuits* before taking out seats.

My immediate impressions from looking at the members of the program is that they are dressed sharply. No one is wearing blue jeans; Several of the men are even wearing three-piece suits. All too aware of my own jeans and shirt that I slept in the night before, I hunkered down to listen.

The British stereotype is alive and thriving in America. Before I disembarked, my dentist laughingly told me not to go to any British dentists. We have this vision of them being tea-loving, prim, proper and posh. In America we're enamored with their curse words ("tw*t" has such a zing to it), their dramas such as *Downton Abbey* (no spoilers, promise) and their accents.

But it was not until I was sitting

there in that conference room that I actually questioned how they perceive us from across the pond. Well, first off they don't even use the phrase "across the pond."

Please note with immediate effect, the British are brutally biting with their honesty.

American Stereotype No. One: We are overzealous and overbearing about everything at all times.

"You're too cheery," said one adviser, Terry. "Everyone will know you're an American when you're sitting in class and you turn to your classmate to introduce yourself. The poor British student will shrivel up there and then," he laughed.

Another advisor, Lynn, added, "Yes, I remember in the summer I was riding the Tube [subway]. There were American students on it, and everyone knew they were not British because, first, no one talks on the Tube." She continued, in a haughty and incredulous tone, "There was this one girl speaking of how she had had a boyfriend, has sex with him, then she found out he was cheating — in that 15 minute Tube ride we got this girl's whole life story. Everyone sighed in relief when

she left."

My response: You're simply jealous of how much faster we can make friends.

Stereotype No. Two: We're all Gun-slingers.

Terry: "We went to visit the American study abroad office in Indiana and were talking about guns in a diner when one of the assistants then stated: 'You can never be too careful' and then placed a revolver on the table. Inside of a restaurant."

Lynn: "I had never seen him jump so high!"

My response: With media portrayal and the abundance of shootings, unfortunately this opinion has merit.

Stereotype No. Three: We're all Right-Wing Prudes

Fact: The United Kingdom has given same-sex couples the ability to have civil partnerships since 2004, which gave couples all the same power as married couples in the States.

Another Fact: In the States we do unfortunately have the Westboro Baptist Church, remnants of the Bible Belt that deny evolution and Republicans denying that a woman will conceive if she is raped unless God wills it.

My response: The fact that



BRIAN TEUTSCH VIA FLICKR/CC-BY-2.0

it took us so long to accept the LGBT community to the extent we do today in order to move forward and bring equality to all is shameful. Also with callous Republican statements over abortion rights and Texas' refusal to teach evolution in public education it is no surprise that this stereotype has a concrete basis.

Stereotype No. Four: Americans are all Born with Amex Cards in our hands.

Example: The Kardashians.

My response: This is definitely True.

Being abroad has let me see a new side to America.

Sofia Diez is a sophomore Mechanical Engineer from Fairfax, VA.

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THE B SECTION

N-L

YOUR WEEKEND • ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT • CARTOONS, ETC. • SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY • SPORTS

FEBRUARY 11, 2016



Arts & Entertainment

Barnstormers hit the stage with drama and comedy — B3
Flashframe Film Reviews raves about *Hateful Eight* — B4
Historian Stephen Bury discusses books as art — B4



Science & Technology

Biannual HopHacks take over Hackerman Hall — B7
Scientists successfully replicate autism in monkeys — B7
The Brain Wave examines stem cells and neurons — B8



Sports

Athlete of the week features M. Basketball's Sam Gordon — B11
Hopkins track and field wins big at Frank Colden Invite — B12
W. Basketball gains a victory against Bryn Mawr — B12

YOUR WEEKEND FEB. 11-14

Events in Baltimore Celebrate Lupercalia in Baltimore this week this weekend

Thursday

"Our Baltimore" Opening Reception Eubie Blake National Jazz Institute and Cultural Center, 5:30 p.m.

A photography exhibition in celebration of Black History Month, featuring works by three generations of a Baltimore family of photojournalists

Not About A Riot Film Screening The Real News Network, 6:30 p.m.

Free screening of a new film about Baltimore's response to the death of Freddie Gray

Reading and Book Release Event Red Emma's, 7:30 p.m.

Featuring Jordannah Elizabeth's Collected Works, *Don't Lose Track*, as well as readings by Theresa Columbus and Afa Lydia

Friday

"By Land or By Sea" Opening Reception School 33 Art Center, 6 p.m.

Multimedia installation by Zoe Friedman with musical accompaniment by Stephen Santillan, exploring humans' natural instincts

Saturday

Wikipedia Edit-a-thon: African American Artists

The Baltimore Museum of Art, 2 p.m.

A workshop on Wikipedia editing then an edit-a-thon of pages devoted to African American artists whose work appears in the BMA

Black Baltimore's History of Resistance Baltimore Ethical Society, 3 p.m.

An opportunity for education about the history — and future — of resistance to injustice in Baltimore

Valentine's Day Dance Party! A Move- able Feast Benefit The Ottobar, 9 p.m.

The chance to party with DJs Dan Deacon, James Nasty, Chiffon and more for a \$7-10 donation

Sunday

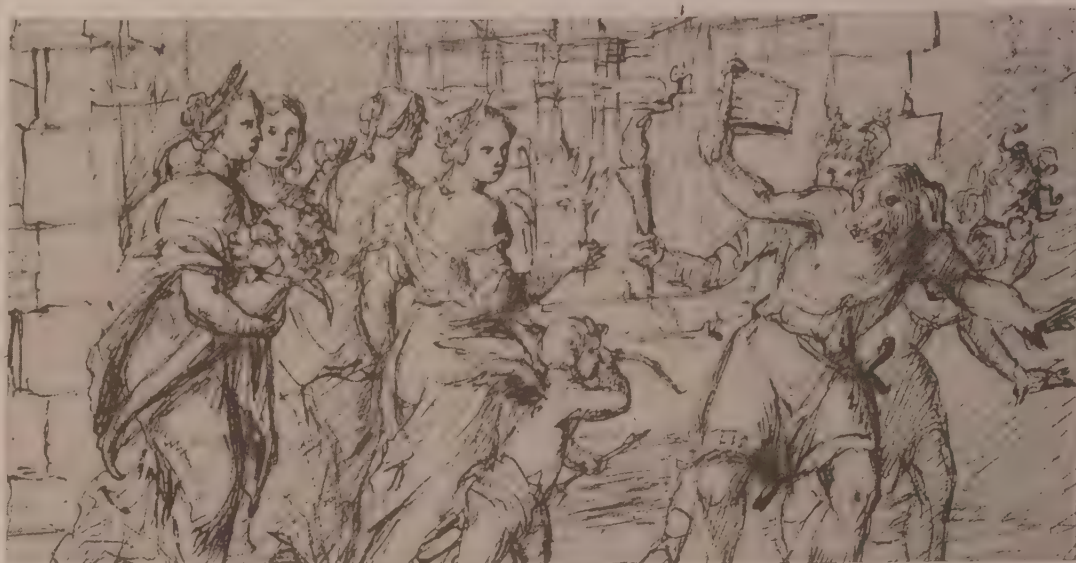
Walk-In Tour:

Love in Painting and Sculpture The Walters Art Museum, 1 p.m.

A free tour of artworks depicting love throughout the museum's many galleries

Protomartyr with Priests and Protect-U The Black Cat, 7:30 p.m.

An amazing opportunity to see a few great live bands at one venue for only \$15



CHRISTIE'S, LOTFINDER/PUBLIC DOMAIN

Ancient Lupercalia festivities, which some researches claim gave rise to Valentine's Day, included priests dressing up and making sacrifices.

By VERONICA
REARDON
Your Weekend Columnist

I'm going to admit right now that this past weekend I spent most of my time either doing homework or putzing around on my computer. Friday night I went out but stayed around campus for the most part. I was so hungover Saturday I mostly didn't move. Sunday I had to work, and even at the Super Bowl party I went to I was doing homework. I can't honestly say this weekend will be that different, except for Valentine's Day.

Valentine's Day has never been a big deal to me, although I always liked the idea of it being associated with a martyred saint who died a horrible death. Fun fact, it is also associated with Lupercalia, an ancient

Roman festival of fertility and purification. To celebrate Lupercalia, Romans would sacrifice animals and basically paint the city in their blood, especially their crops and women. The blood was supposed to bestow fertility and purity to those it touched. (Awesome, right?)

I'm not sure why we don't do this today. It sounds like much more fun than all the shenanigans we partake in now, although if you were a woman, some sources say that you'd actually get hit if you were hit on. Apparently being hit made you more fertile. Still, single people were paired up, instead of it being a couples' holiday, and you got to sacrifice a goat, which is all in good fun.

Anyhow, for the present — those of you who don't already have Valen-

tine's Day, er, Lupercalia plans, here are some fun things going on this very weekend that can get you into the spirit of the thing. Beware though: If you're a single person of the melancholy variety, a Sunday hangover could be a little rough. Also, sadly none of them involve animal sacrifice to my knowledge.

For one, if you're of age, a bunch of places are having drink specials on the 13th. These include the Ottobar, which will have \$3 drinks 9-10 p.m., and possibly Grand Central, a gay bar in Mount Vernon. There's also a pub crawl on the 13th. Buy tickets at baltimore-social.com/valentines-bar-crawl-213 if that's what you're feeling.

Mobtown Ballroom is going so far as to have a FREE (wool!) Anti-Valentine's Day Extravaganza, which looks to be a good

time. If you haven't made it out to Mobtown, you should; It's in Pigtown and looks to have been a church at one point. They have a lot of fun dance events — square dances, swing dances, salsa and more — and have circus shows sometimes as well (including that of our very own circus club!).

Bastards of Reality are playing at the Metro Gallery in Station North on the 13th, along with Slagstorm, Cavern and Athame. If you're into Black Sabbath and similar bands, you'll probably like Bastards of Reality. Plus their name is super fun to say.

No matter where you go, have a fun Lupercalia! I'll be out behind the Rec Center in the dog park sacrificing a goat myself, so feel free to join me if none of these things sound fun to you.

Airbnb for weekends away from Hopkins

By ALISON
BARTOWSKI
Your Weekend Columnist

Recently Airbnb has started to gain popularity, and even Beyoncé used the service to stay in a huge mansion in San Francisco over the super bowl weekend. Although she allegedly paid \$10,000 a night many of the options provided come at a more reasonable cost. This makes it a great alternative to hotels and hostels for travelling college students.

I actually used this service this weekend in New York City. For a group of five it cost us \$85 per person for both nights. The apartment was centrally located on Broadway and 53rd Streets. It was also relatively spacious — with two bedrooms, a living room, a kitchen and a bathroom. The apartment owners provided a television, free Wi-Fi and even cleaning supplies and towels.

My experience staying there with my friends was great, and I would definitely look into using the service again next time I travel.

The company itself was founded in 2008 and is based in San Francisco. However, apartments and houses are available in 190 countries and over 34,000 cities. They also have a huge price



ANDREAS PRAEFCKE/CC-BY-3.0

The author was able to stay near the iconic Broadway Theatre on 53rd Street for an affordable price.

range so that even international travel can be reasonably affordable. There are tons of options for places to stay in D.C. if you are looking to escape but stay nearby. The options certainly don't stop there. You can even stay in a tree house or on a private island if you're willing to pay for it.

Signing up for the service is relatively easy. You connect your profile through Facebook, and you and your friends are able to make reservations together. Also, if you have a place you want to rent out as a host, this is an easy way to

do so!

However, it is important to remember that unlike when you stay at a reputable hotel, some of these hosts may not be friendly, and you may have negative interactions with them. Hosts can even decide you are not the type of person they want staying on their property and reject your request to stay there. They might also charge large fees if you leave the place a mess or break some of the rules they state in the agreement. Occasionally large firms provide many different listings on the site

in the same town, and your experience can be much less charming and personal than you might have hoped for.

Regardless of where you travel it is always good to look at all the options and do a good job researching because sometimes hotels can actually be cheaper and nicer than Airbnb listings in that area. Also Airbnb does charge rather high service fees for connecting hosts and patrons. Still, do make sure to check it out next time you try traveling somewhere for an overnight stay.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Documentary unveils human connections

By **SARAH SCHREIB**
Arts & Entertainment Editor

The 2015 gang-intervention documentary *License to Operate*, directed by James Lipetzky, held its Baltimore premiere in Hodson Hall on Thursday, Feb. 4.

The film premiered at the Seattle Film Festival and screened at a number of universities across the country. Last week's showing was opened by an introduction by Beverly Wendland, dean of the Krieger School of Arts & Sciences and Don Kurz, an alumni of Hopkins and one of the film's executive producers.

What followed these introductions was a film of incredible impact, at once visually dynamic, emotionally devastating and ultimately enlightening.

The story at the forefront is that of gang violence in Los Angeles and the former gang members who, with their respected "License to Operate" (LTO) status, return to the neighborhoods they once dominated, using their influence to prevent gang actions and rebuild communities. We follow these local heroes through their own stories of gang membership and incarceration, their hours of training, their heartbreaking discussions with community members and their hopes for future change.

Countering the media's cold, sensationalist por-

trayal of gang members and their communities, the film is profoundly emotional, depicting the seemingly endless pain of individuals on all sides of the violence and devastation.

One of the main emotional narratives surrounds Jazmin and Carissa Falls, twin sisters who face the death of school friends as a result of gang violence as well as abandonment by their mother. While their story does not involve gang intervention, it weaves perfectly into the overall film in that it portrays the struggle of young people in targeted, disenfranchised communities who are forced to face certain hardships in addition to those of simply growing up and finding one's place in the world.

Another moment that produced deep empathy from audience members was the parallel sequence of LAPD officer Stinson Brown and a former gang member who both visit the graves of their young sons. Their accounts of their sons' lives and deaths, though different, portray the connecting human element of violence and death as well as the drive for change on both sides.

Leading the LTO movement is Aquil Basheer, one of the top specialists in gang intervention in the nation, the founder of the Professional Community Intervention Training

SEE LTO, PAGE B5



LEON SANTHAKUMAR/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

The Barnstormers Intersession Showcase featured two one-act plays after a month of rehearsal.

By **ANITA LOUIE**
For *The News-Letter*

The actors gathered in a circle, slowly circling around beneath an eerie red light. One actress carried what appeared to be a headless body before gently placing it on the bed on the stage. Contrary to any initial assumptions about the nature of these ritualistic proceedings, this was, in fact, the transition between the two plays of the Barnstormers Intersession Showcase.

After rehearsing for a month over Intersession, the nine-person cast put on two mind-boggling one-acts, Christopher Durang's *The Actor's Nightmare* and Stephen Gregg's *The Wake Up Call*. The plays were directed by

the Barnstormers president, senior Raidizon Mercedes and produced by the Barnstormers vice president, senior Elizabeth Sylvester. Both plays balanced comedic lines with serious conversations about the nature of reality.

Durang's 1981 one-act play, *The Actor's Nightmare*, centers on the character George Spelvin, played by junior Neil Fendley. George, who believes he is an accountant, suddenly finds himself backstage when no-nonsense stage manager Meg (sophomore Esther Rodriguez) rushes in to inform him that will need to take the place of the normal lead, who has just been in a car accident. Panicked and confused, George wanders around back-

stage, as actresses Sarah (graduate student Vanessa Quinlivan-Repasi) and Ellen (freshman Natalie Wallington) wish him luck but tell him conflicting information when he asks which play they are about to perform.

George is pushed onto the stage along with Sarah, who quickly becomes irritated when George does not know the correct lines. Ellen then joins the duo on stage, along with Meg, who appears as the maid in order to hiss George's lines into his ear. The awkward on-stage exchange leads to some entertaining moments of misunderstanding, which the actors performed with perfect deadpan.

The play seems to cycle rapidly through disjointed scenes from other plays, such as *Private Lives*, *Hamlet*, *Checkmate* and *A Man for All Seasons*. George struggles to keep up with the ever-changing scenes and is eventually forced to per-

form a soliloquy in which he draws famous lines from several Shakespeare plays and then speaks a bit about his own life, describing how he once considered entering a monastery.

This scene rapidly changes to the execution in *A Man for All Seasons*, in which the Executioner (sophomore Mehdi El-Hebil) appears wielding an ax in a frighteningly realistic manner. Even as the ax comes down, George tries to convince himself that he'll wake up as soon as he is killed. However, much to the surprise of the rest of the cast, George remains lifeless on the ground during the curtain call.

After a brief intermission, the actors gathered in a circle and circled around for the transition to the next play, *The Wake Up Call*, which starred freshman David Gumino as a high school student, Jim.

Jim is studying with his girlfriend, Rochelle (senior Michelle Pargament), when she abruptly asks if he'll help her murder her father (sophomore Ian Stark). Falling back onto the bed in surprise, Jim suddenly wakes up in his own bed at home, still shaking from the dream when his mother (sophomore Elizabeth Winkelhoff) walks in.

Although in a comical fashion, his mother attempts to make sexual advances, causing him to fall backwards again onto his bed. He wakes up again in Rochelle's room, even more confused. Unfortunately, not everything was a dream and Rochelle is still attempting to

SEE SHOWCASE, PAGE B5

Dope Body performs passionate show at Ottobar

By **DUBRAY KINNEY**
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Dope Body headlined a show at the Ottobar on Saturday, Feb. 6 that featured a variety of Baltimore-based acts, with openers Wume, Frenemies and Wing.

Dope Body, formed in 2008, have been making loud, abrasive noise-punk over the course of four LPs. The group consists of vocalist Andrew Laumann, bassist John Jones, guitarist Zachary Utz and drummer David Jacober. The scuzzy sounds of the band have garnered them a vocal fan base and a record deal with Drag City (home to harpist Joanna Newsom and garage-rockers Ty Segall).

The band released

their latest LP titled *Kunk* in 2015. The album received positive critical reception and solidified itself as a strong release in Dope Body's growing discography.

On stage, Dope Body displays a considerable playfulness, while still demanding an overwhelming stage presence. Laumann began the set on his knees, with an instrumental freak-out by Utz and Jones happening behind him. He rose slowly, facing the crowd as the build-up continued before finally he stood to the cheers of the Ottobar.

It finally ended with a crash and Laumann grabbed the mic stand, swinging it around wildly as he thrashed about the stage. This was the first

incident in a night full of mic-stand antics, which concluded with him accidentally breaking it.

For other songs Laumann lay across the stage, shirtless, before rising and shouting the lyrics which either came in a hypnotic drone or a vicious chant. A notable portion of the concert featured him bowing before the drumkit while thrashing his head righteously. Laumann gave off the aura of a true frontman, whether he was headbanging or moseying across the stage with a style that could only be described as Buffalo Bill-esque.

As for the instrumentals, they played true to the distortion that Dope Body's studio recordings promised with the same anger and passion com-

ing from each band member. The band played a wide range of songs across their discography, as well as a song they noted they hadn't played in a few years. Overall, Dope Body's set managed to channel energy, technical skill and passion, all in one four-piece package.

The show also had a political bent in the comments that came from a member of Wume, an experimental synthpop duo, during a break between songs in their set. "Our world can't take another Republican president," April Camlin, drummer/vocalist for the duo, said.

While the words didn't exactly set a tone for Wume's set, they instead reflected a Baltimore music scene that is finding itself more politically active as November 2016 gets closer.

Wume formed in 2010 and have two releases under their belt so far with their latest, *Maintain*, dropping last May. The synthpop that the band has become known for has drawn many favorable comparisons with other strong electronic acts that have surged throughout the Baltimore music scene over the last decade, and they have become known for a particularly smooth live performance.

In terms of the music itself, Wume played several songs from their sophomore record, *Maintain*, and the audience swayed

SEE DOPE BODY, PAGE B5

BreakBeat updates poetry with hip-hop

By **WILL KIRSCH**
Staff Writer

The Center for Africana Studies hosted a reading by three poets and contributors to the recently published anthology *The BreakBeat Poets: New American Poetry in the Age of Hip-Hop* on Feb. 8.

The reading featured Quraysh Ali Lansana, one of the volume's editors, as well as Tony Medina and Safia Elhillo, two of its contributors. The readings were accompanied by music courtesy of DJ Daniel Kisslinger.

All three poets read from the *BreakBeat* anthology, a collection born and bred in hip-hop, and other written works. *The BreakBeat Poets* shifts away from past traditions and toward a more contemporary style. It focuses on the language of music and the themes of urban modernity.

Much of the work in the anthology lends itself to being read aloud, just as hip-hop is meant to be heard. The book seems to be an attempt by both editors and contributors to celebrate an art form which has long been discredited by mainstream society. They want to

show that poetry can be accessible and populist. Following this theme, Lansana opened with a passage from the book's introduction, "Hip-hop saved American poetry."

The first reader was Lansana, a veteran poet and professor who was mentored by Gwendolyn Brooks. He walked to the podium with confidence to the classic rap song "Paid in Full," by Eric B and Rakim. Lansana, who was one of the anthology's editors, covered some of the key features of the book, noting that half of the contributors were women.

He then launched into fellow editor Nate Marshall's piece, "Prelude (RIP)," which imagined death as both a graffiti artist and a woman. Lansana then read his own poem, "crack house," which narrated the image of squalor and destitution room by room. Lansana's poem was brutal reality, a sharp depiction of a woe-filled setting.

The second reader was Elhillo, a young Sudanese-American poet. Elhillo's entrance was accompanied by Jay-Z's, "Big Pimpin'." Elhillo kept her introduction

SEE BREAKBEAT, PAGE B5

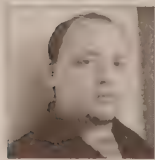


PIOTR DRABIK/CC-BY 2.0

Baltimore-based quartet Dope Body performed songs from varied points in their discography at Ottobar.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

The Hateful Eight retreads old territory



Tim Freborg
Flashframe Film
Reviews

Ah, Quentin Tarantino. Whenever this acclaimed director's name splashes on screen, audiences know one thing: they're in for something campy, bloody and over the top. From *Reservoir Dogs* to *Pulp Fiction* to *Django Unchained*, Tarantino has created a cinematic legacy that is often as energetic and enticing as it is repulsive. Yet somewhere within that contradiction, he manages to elicit a strange sort of charm that no other filmmaker has been able to fully replicate.

If there is one thing that Tarantino is known for beyond his love of gratuitous violence, it is the diversity of his creations. The man has directed everything mafia dramas to spaghetti westerns to kung fu flick homages and infused his personal flare into each. It is almost out of character to see him retreading familiar territory, especially so soon after *Django*, with his recent release *The Hateful Eight*.

Set once again in the Old West, *The Hateful Eight* follows the story of a band of bounty hunters, rogues and peacemakers as a blizzard forces them to seek refuge at Minnie's Haberdashery, a lodge on the road. Among those at the lodge are Marquis Warren (Samuel Jackson), a former soldier turned bounty hunter; Chris Mannix (Walton Goggins), former Confederate turned sheriff; John Ruth (Kurt Russel), a bounty hunter known for taking marks alive just to watch them hang; and Daisy Domergue, Ruth's most recently captured bounty.

Yet these four are not alone at the Haberdashery, as they draw the at-



Soon after the release of *Django Unchained*, Tarentino revisits old territory with another Western.

tention of several other lodgers. Ruth, wanting to make sure his bounty lives long enough to see her hanging, allies with Warren to ensure the other lodgers don't violently seize the opportunity to cash in.

Yet as tensions mount at the lodge, people begin to be murdered one by one. The only issue is, no one knows or at least no one seems to know, just who is doing the killing.

Those familiar with Tarantino's past works will notice an elephant in the room right from the film's offset with its setting. From its location to its characters, *The Hateful Eight* definitely takes a few notes from *Django Unchained* in its execution. In fact, it would likely be fair to argue that *Eight* more closely parallels past works of Tarantino's since *Kill Bill Volume 2*.

While it would admittedly be easy to simply write the film off as a simple retread, what this film does change works extraordinarily well.

In fact, if it weren't for the filmmaker's typical gratuitous violence spattered throughout, it would almost be difficult to tag this film as a traditional Tarantino film. It has many more quiet mo-

ments, a true sense of actual dramatic tension and a much slower pace than his typical fare.

The film unfolds like a classical mystery rather than a guns-blazing standoff. There is definitely more *Clue* than *The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly*. In this sense, the film plays itself straight more than anything else, following a traditional style of mystery film progression, from its gradual escalation to its twists.

Yet despite its relatively safe, traditional narrative, it's the characters that really give *Eight* the flair it has. There may not be an actor alive who understands how to bring a Tarantino character to life the way Samuel L. Jackson does, and

his performance here is as excellent reminder of why we enjoy him so much. Equal parts bombastic and cold, sinister yet subtle, his performance stands firmly at the top of the class here. However, despite his performance's strength, it does feel as though it plays itself a little too safe.

Much like other type-cast actors, such as Johnny Depp in a Tim Burton film or Robert Downey Jr. in any film he's ever been

in, there's little fresh or new in Jackson's portrayal of Warren. It is simply what we have come to expect. No more, no less.

Acting aside, however, what audiences really want to see are those well-known, gluten-free, organic, quintessential Tarantino-style bloodbaths and fortunately, the film certainly finds time amid its slow-paced drama to give audiences some truly glorious action. The filmmaker proves once again that, over the top violence aside, he really knows how to film intense fight scenes.

With cinematography and camera work that keeps the action flowing both quickly and fluidly, he makes sure that every push, punch and shot counts. While admittedly gratuitous in many respects, it's true to the flair fans have come to expect from the filmmaker (besides, it does restrain itself from reaching *Kill Bill* levels, at the very least).

In all, for both longtime fans and newcomers to the Tarantino style, there is ironically a lot to like with *The Hateful Eight*. While definitely nothing new, and even a bit too safe in many respects, it works as a suitable entry point for these kinds of films, having just enough edge to appeal to longtime fans, while remaining traditional enough for the uninitiated or even those who dislike these kinds of films to find something to enjoy.

If the chance arises, *The Hateful Eight* is definitely a film worthy of a little love.

Overall rating: 8.5/10

Showcase shines with talented cast

BARSTORMERS, FROM B3 murder her father for the insurance money.

Jim continuously switches back and forth between the murder unfolding in Rochelle's room and the increasing oddity of his own room, which includes the blue sun outside of his window, his mother's refusal to believe in the word "milk," his own private chorus (Natalie Wallington, Mehdi El-Hebil and Esther Rodriguez) that enter and continuously sing "Do Your Ears Hang Low?" and his mother sporting a green wig and a clock around her neck. He eventually gives up completely on trying to separate reality from his dreaming, ending the play by dramatically kissing his mother.

Despite themes involving murder, the play is ultimately comedic, with Jim's confusion and the progressively stranger occurrences as the centerpiece of its hilarity. David Gumino, the actor who played Jim, drew from his own personal experiences with lucid dreaming to help

convey his constant state of delirium. Although he noted that he had wanted to go even more over-the-top in his performance, Gumino explained the impact that the play would have on audiences.

"This play pushed boundaries and made people uncomfortable more than any play I have done," he wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

Overall, both plays moved quickly and didn't have any dead moments. The chemistry of the cast was evident in the well-timed jokes and interactions between characters. Both plays, comparable perhaps to the *Twilight Zone* television series, were a bit off the beaten path from traditional plays and made the audience question parts of their lives. With the great casting, lighting, costumes and directing, as well as unusual and exciting choices for the plays themselves, the *Barnstormers' Intercession Showcase* really demonstrated the full extent of the talented students in all areas of the production.

Half-time show presents powerful messages

By MARCIA ZIMMERMAN
For The News-Letter

There are two kinds of Super Bowl fans: those that care about the game and those that come in the last five minutes of the first half to watch the halftime show. However, regardless of the type of football fan, it seemed like everyone was excited to see Beyoncé, Bruno Mars and Coldplay. While the headliner was officially Coldplay, a British group formed in 1996, Bruno Mars and Beyoncé were invited to perform alongside the band. This was an interesting choice considering it was almost guaranteed that their combined star power would overpower Coldplay.

Lead singer Chris Martin started the performance on the field with fans singing "Viva La Vida," a classic song from the band released in 2008. Coldplay then performed more recent songs "Paradise" and "Adventure of a Lifetime."

The stage was lit up with technicolor animations, and half of the audience in the stadium held colored squares that added up to a larger picture, like a sun. The band's equipment and attire were all technicolor and slightly whimsical, with tie-dye pinwheels and rainbow drums. Performers in gold outfits marched onto the field opening and closing umbrellas like flowers (also brightly colored).

Following the performance by Beyoncé and Mars, the band played "Fix You" as part of a video tribute to past halftime shows. Coldplay's performance was typical of the band — upbeat, yet soft and flowery.

Mark Ronson and Bruno Mars then performed "Uptown Funk," one of the most popular songs of last year. Mars, an obviously skilled dancer and engag-

ing performer, danced with four backup dancers, as is typical for his "Uptown Funk" performances.

While the other performances of the night were entertaining and held their own significance, many agree that Beyoncé's performance was the most powerful for a number of reasons. She announced her arrival with pyrotechnics and performed the song that she released the day before the Super Bowl, "Formation."

The performance was one of the most politically charged in the Super Bowl's history. The song itself is one that promotes the empowerment of African Americans in the United States, with lyrics like "I like my baby hair, with baby hair and afros/ I like my Negro nose with Jackson Five nostrils." Her backup dancers wore Black Panther-style berets and moved into an X formation to represent Malcolm X. Beyoncé herself donned bandoliers and raised her first in a Black Power salute. Showing further support for the political and social equality of black communities, Beyoncé and her husband Jay-Z donated \$1.5 million to the Black Lives Matter movement on Feb. 5.

The finale of the halftime show was Martin, Mars and Beyoncé singing "Up and Up." Audience members held up colored squares that spelled out "Believe in Love," which, when juxtaposed with Coldplay's rainbow color scheme, declared support for LGBT rights and marriage equality. Though Beyoncé stole the show, all the performances of the night displayed the positive political and social impact that artists can have on their audiences, especially in large-scale venues like the Super Bowl.

Art historian discusses evolution of artistic books

By SPENCER ABROHMS
Staff Writer

In an event titled Gaining/Losing Control: The Artist and the Book Format Stephen J. Bury presented a talk on book art to a crowded auditorium of art enthusiasts, curious students and community members on Feb. 2. The talk, which was as a part of a series of programming on book art at Hopkins and around Baltimore, covered different traditional and experimental books from the early 20th to the 21st century.

Bury, an art historian who currently works as the chief librarian at the Frick Art Reference Library in New York City, is an expert on artists' books and has published *Artists' Multiples and Multiplication* as well as *Breaking the Rules: The Printed Face of the European Avant-Garde* among other publications. His discussion was centered around the digital age

and the mass production of books that has greatly transformed the medium of reading. It was enlightening for audiences to be reminded of the artistry that can go into designing a book and how the book format itself can be reimagined into art.

In recent years, Bury coined the currently accepted definition of artists' books, which he defines as "books or book-like objects over the final appearance of which an artist has had a high degree of control; where the book is intended as a work of art in itself." These books allow the artists to give the books their own sense of style and meaning that allow them to expand what is on the page or provide completely new meaning.

After describing the many different types of works including traditional books, mass printed books, single edition books and experimental books, Bury also talked about the

history of book art. The art form started out as a mixture of religious symbolism and Anglo Saxon imagery. With the invention of printing and mass type, the artist became another separate from the book itself with the author becoming the writer and the artist became a separate entity.

One of the main artists Bury covered was William Blake. Blake was a 19th century artist who would etch on copper to integrate text with images and sometimes he would even print in color. One of his famous books was the *Songs of Innocence* which was a gorgeous book with intricate artwork seldom seen in modern books. Another major player was William Morris who also developed artistic engravings in his books.

Most of the artists Bury covered, however, were 20th century book artists. A major player in this was Stéphane Mal-

larmé who began as a poet was at the forefront of book art at the beginning of the twentieth century. Mallarmé became very influential especially for his extreme focus on the white space of the page. Book artists decorate everything from the covers to the pages themselves.

Recent innovations have helped to blur the gap between books and art. Bury proceeded to show the progress of book art throughout the twentieth century and how the methods changed over time. Some of these innovative books include literal blocks with writing on them, books that are meant to have each page torn out and littered and books that are only two dots of glue on the cover.

Bury concluded his talk by talking about the changes in text and what it means to see text on the page.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Zinda takes on new name, competitive spirit



COURTESY OF JILLIKA PATEL

Zinda recently competed at Dhamaal, a competition in Detroit that included eight different groups.

BY ANEKA
RATNAYAKEFor *The News-Letter*

This past weekend, the newly re-branded Bollywood dance team Zinda travelled to Detroit to attend their first competitive dance competition. Formerly known as Masti, the team started about 10 years ago as a non-competitive dance team at Hopkins.

However, in 2014 the team decided that they wanted to become competitive. They have finally begun to implement their goal this year, revamping both their name and their approach to dance.

The team is now comprised of 21 members. Its captains, Senior Monica Majumder, Senior Rahul Sharma and Sophomore Kush Kapadia, are working to prepare the team for competitive success. This year they have fo-

cused on improving their technical dancing skills due to competitive encouragement.

Sophomore Jhillika Patel, who has been a member of the team since freshman year, commented on the re-branding and the change of focus of the team.

"More people are involved with all aspects of the team in comparison to last year," she said in an email to *The News-Letter*. "We have a larger change in mentality, from a more relaxed, light-hearted mindset of Masti, to the more motivated, dedicated drive of Zinda."

The team is striving to be recognized not only within the Hopkins community but also nationally. Hence why they are reaching out and applying to various competitions across the country where they will travel to as a team.

This past weekend

marked an important step in this transition to national recognition as the group competed in Dhamaal, the first Bollywood fusion dance competition in Detroit. Hosted by Wayne State University, the competition featured eight teams from across the country including Michigan Izzat, Spartan Zaanya, Mazaa, Zara Dance Team, Buckeye Fusion, OSU Nashaa and Michigan TAAL.

Patel explained her team's sentiments before the competition.

"We feel confident that our effort in practice and as a team overall will enable us to perform well at Dhamaal. The motivation and drive of the team has definitely created a hype for performing our best in the upcoming show," Patel wrote.

After this first competition, where the team received a lot of positive feedback on their song choice and the storyline of their choreography, Patel expressed her satisfaction with the event.

It was definitely a great, but very tiring experience," she wrote.

Despite being new to competitions, the ma-

majority of Zinda members have a great deal of dance experience in Bollywood dance as well as other styles including classical, kathak, bharatnatyam and hip-hop. Through months of practice, the diverse experiences of members have been combined to create a succinct style within the team.

Eager to continue to showcase the level of dedication they have towards Bollywood, the team will continue to attend several competitions, including one in late February in South Carolina called Aag Ki Raat, hosted by the University of South Carolina.

Patel commented on her excitement for the team and their upcoming competitions.

"We are proud of the team and how far it has come from last year. Last year we could not have even dreamed of making it to where we are now," she said. "I have been on the team for two years and saw the transition between Masti and Zinda and was amazed at the change in dedication and mindset."

Though they will be competing around the country, they will remain connected to the Hopkins community by performing around campus throughout the semester. They have already danced at a variety of school dinners and will perform at a Relay for Life event later this year.

On Saturday, Feb. 13, they will be performing in the show "Dil Se" which is a part of the South Asian Students at Hopkins (SASH) showcase. Moreover, later in the semester they will join the JHU Eclectics dance team, another team that aims to combine many forms of dance, for another showcase.

BreakBeat poets show diversity in the arts

BREAKBEAT, FROM B3

short, clarifying some of her background, jokingly telling the audience her horoscope sign and professing a love for the Wu-Tang Clan.

She then launched into her work, flowing lines rich with imagery that covered topics ranging from diaspora, identity, disconnect and language to love, ignorance and divorce. Elhillo's poetry was marked by abstractions that were both clear and suggestive but still indirect.

It was a fitting introduction for Medina, who took the stage as Kanye's "Touch the Sky" played in the background. Several of Medina's poems were far more humorous than his colleagues, but were by no means light-hearted.

The poet delivered a tirade against Donald Trump, read a "secret letter" from President Barack Obama and mocked the animosity between Drake and Meek Mill. Medina also read two strong poems separately discussing the deaths of Trayvon Martin and Freddie Gray. The question and answer period was as interesting as the talk itself. Lasana took time to elaborate on graffiti, one of the five elements of hip-hop, and his

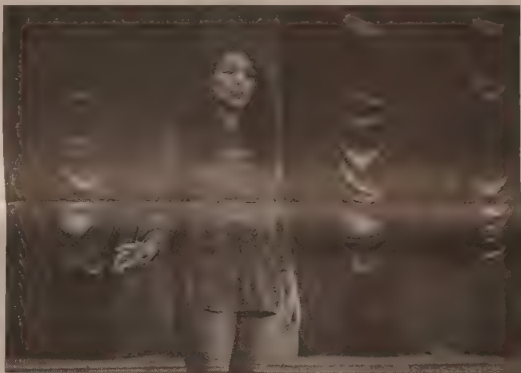
perception of it as art.

He and Medina then went on to cite their inspirations. Lasana discussed the stimuli he finds all around him and the guidance he received from his mentor, Gwendolyn Brooks. Medina agreed with Lasana's first sentiment, explaining that he finds much of his creative energy by engaging with his environment in the people, places and things. Elhillo said that her muse was her own emotional trials and tribulations, which seem evident in her poetry.

An interesting question came from an audience member who asked for a comment on the conflict between "academic" poetry and spoken word. The pair responded saying opinions on what constituted "low" and "high" were just that: opinions.

The trio also said that they had received resistance from some faculty while on their reading tour.

Regardless of one's opinion on the nature of poetry, the talent of these authors is undeniable and their attempts to save hip-hop from its relegation to the fringes of art are nothing but admirable.



DIAN LOFTON/CC BY-NC 2.0

Safia Elhillo was one of the performers at the BreakBeat event.

Dope Body embrace noise at the Ottobar

DOPE BODY, FROM B3

swayed gently to the sounds. The combination of Camlin's drumming and Al Schatz, the band's other half, on synthesizers caused a varied soundscape. The final product felt reminiscent of a darker, more atmospheric Dan Deacon.

The audience members featured as much variety as the bands that played, with a mixture of older listeners amongst the younger, collegiate crowd.

The show served as one of the final local stops for Wing Dam since they announced an upcoming move to San Diego in January. At the same time, the band will most likely keep their ties with the Baltimore scene with an album release party for their first full-length album in the city this fall.

As the show came to an end, the members proclaimed that one of their albums, *Nupping* from 2011, would be available for free. One more song followed and the crowd moshed and thrashed to the punk tunes before Ottobar became quiet and Dope Body departed. Once again, one of the more active venues in the Baltimore music scene featured a lights-out concert, with other local acts performing.

The bands featured have multiple things coming up in the near future. Wing Dam is playing at the Ottobar once more on March 19 in

what may be their final show before they move to San Diego. Wume has a performance on Feb. 20 in Chicago followed by another on Feb. 26 in New York, thus ending their current (yet short) slate of shows for spring 2016.

As for the Ottobar, 2016 continues to be a busy year for shows at the venue with a number of notable acts coming in the near future including the March 1 performance featuring punk rock mainstays Titus Andronicus, Oneohtrix Point Never's performance on March 15 and the indie rock showcase of Citizen, Turnover, Milk Teeth and Sorority Noise on April 14.

Other concerts of note throughout Baltimore include Diet Cig playing with Kississippi as well as a few other bands at the Metro Gallery on March 7 and all the way in Washington, D.C. Animal Collective is playing a two-day stint at the 9:30 Club May 10-11. That's without mentioning D.C.'s own homegrown Damaged City Fest April 8-10 which features punk bands from the world over playing three days at various venues in D.C.

The year in live music is looking up for the DMV and, with many bands still keeping mum about release dates for their albums, more tours will be announced as summer grows ever closer.

Film sparks conversation on violence, race

LTO, FROM B3

Institute and the 2010 California Wellness Foundation's Peace Prize recipient. Basheer, who was born and raised in Los Angeles, explained that he was able to form this type of connection with targeted neighborhoods because of his own experiences.

"I feel that it is probably the only thing that could have put me in this work. I would never be able to do this work because I wouldn't understand the dynamics of the work," he said. "I wouldn't understand the challenges of people in targeted communities that go through this... Everything you saw in the film, all the challenges, that's what prepared me to be able to do the work."

Basheer and his colleagues first became involved in the film after meeting with Kurz, whose company, Omelet, happened to be on the board of one of the organizations that supports the program. First conceived as a shorter, commercial-type trailer, it soon morphed into a full feature length film, the first for the production company.

Throughout the film, it is evident that filmmakers strove to respect these boundaries while also providing an intimate portrayal of all sides of the situation and breaking down

misconceptions about gang violence and those trapped in its vicious cycle.

A panel discussion titled "Interrupting Gun Violence from the Ground Up" followed the film screening.

While the topic of the discussion leaned towards weapons and violence, the panel encompassed a range of elements including the evolution of weaponry used by gang members, the tentative, yet necessary relationship between interventionists and the police, the significance of direct groundwork and the role of local governments. Each member of the panel agreed on the importance of allowing the communities themselves to drive the process of change and development rather than lawmakers and policy researchers who implement their decisions from a distance.

In discussing these factors, it was made apparent that there are concrete methods of supporting impoverished, marginalized communities and creating systems that will drive fundamental change. In their tireless work, the interventionists, who understand the needs and desires of their communities, show tangible solutions to the oppression of urban communities and the subsequent cycles of death and

retaliation.

Basheer echoed this sentiment of hope and understanding that he expects audience members will come away with after seeing the film.

"What I would hope that they would understand is that, first and foremost, there are answers and solutions," he said. "There are, within the community, individuals that have committed themselves to providing hope and to affording the ability for others in the dysfunctionality to see a degree of greatness within themselves."

Panelists also highlighted the importance of film and the arts as a way of providing a voice for those who are often systematically dehumanized and ignored. Indeed, one of the greatest strengths of the film is that it creates a conduit for those involved to take charge of their own narratives and share them with a larger audience. Rather than relaying the story through a celebrity narrator, someone who would be detached from the situations depicted, the film allows those directly impacted by the issues to tell their own stories from their own perspectives.

Basheer later commented on the importance of the film bringing a voice of humanity to politicized issues.

"I think one of the things that the film does is create a state of humanity. People can relate from a human perspective to what they see," he said. "So, in being able to create this relationship, people automatically want to know if they can do something, if they can be a part of this process of change."

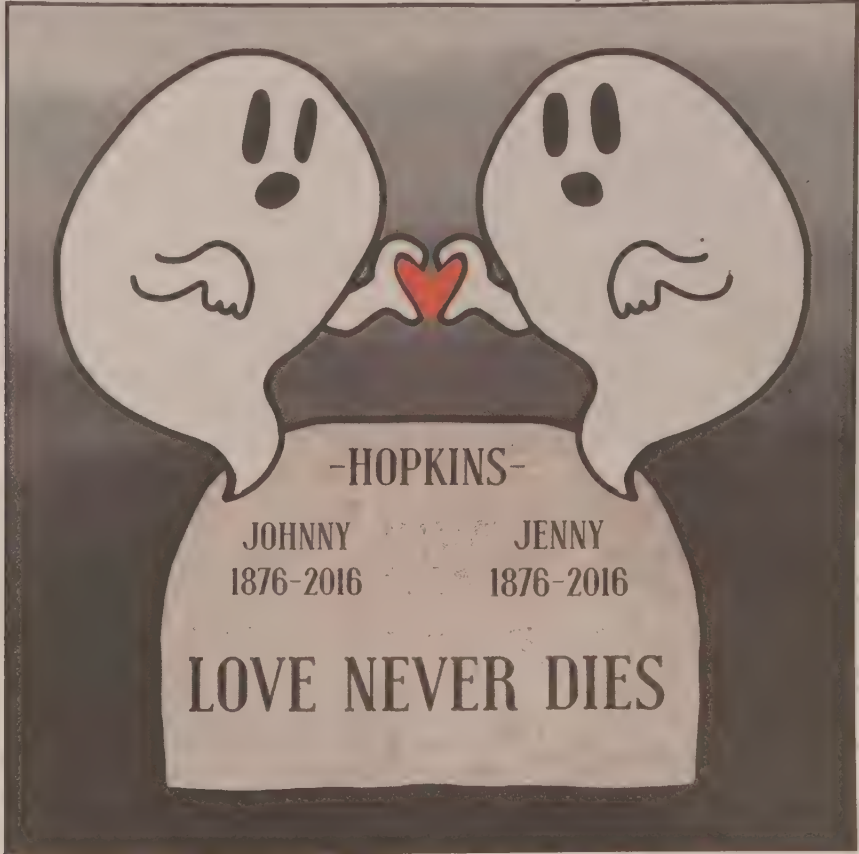
Expanding on this subject of generating change through creating a deeper understanding of one another, Basheer hopes that audiences will recognize their own false preconceptions about dysfunctional communities and become more aware of the actual socioeconomic dynamics at play. He also seeks to break down the distance between people from different societal backgrounds and neighborhoods, thus creating a sense of interconnectedness.

"For audiences, especially those who don't come from these types of communities, [I hope] that they have a better understanding, that they have a better vision and that they realize that community after community are all interdependent," Basheer said. "The quicker you are able to work with others outside of your comfort zone, the better it is going to be for society in general."

CARTOONS, ETC.

Grave Humor

By Stephanie Herrera



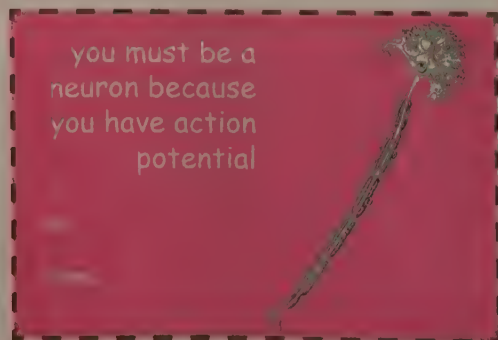
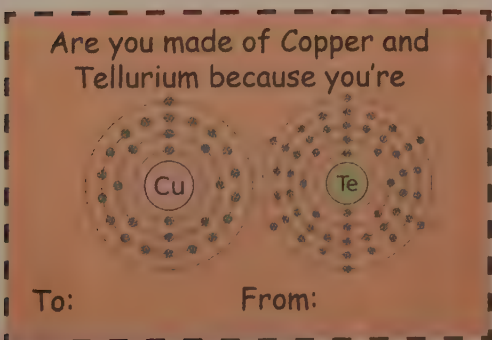
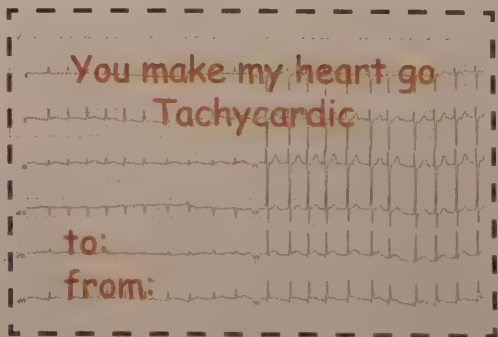
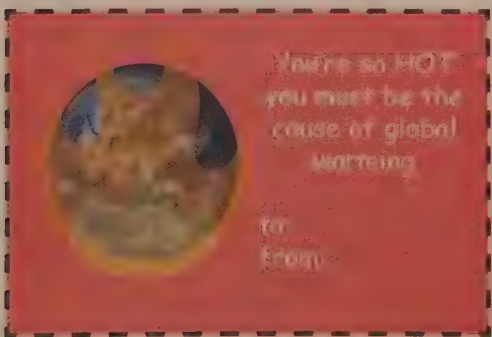
More Patients, More Problems

By Megan Donnelly



Geeky Valentines Wishes From The News-Letter Cartoons Section!!

Please feel free to cut them out and give them to a special someone! ;-)



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Students compete, learn at largest HopHacks Scientists replicate autism in monkeys

By **SABRINA CHEN**
Staff Writer

HopHacks, a bi-annual event held in Hackerman Hall this weekend, offered approximately 300 students from all around the region an opportunity to collaborate with peers and to work with cutting-edge technology.

Daniel Swann, a Masters student in computer engineering and one of the event's 12 organizers, said that this was the biggest-ever HopHacks. Swann started HopHacks with three other computer science majors in 2013. Since then, the event has expanded to encompass hundreds of students from dozens of universities around the area.

"It's pretty crazy. It runs for the entire weekend — 36 hours. Kick-off starts about 6:30 p.m. on Friday evening and the presentations are on Sunday," Swann said. "The majority of students are constantly working on projects, but also a lot of our sponsors give workshops as well."

HopHack's participants spend a large portion of their weekends developing their projects. Towards the end of the hackathon, the teams demonstrated their projects

to judges for a chance to place in the top three teams. Several prizes were available, and a combined value of \$1,792 in monetary prizes was given out.

Soteria, an app that allows students to notify Hopkins security personnel when they are walking at night and to easily call security or 911, won first place.

The second place prize went to ToFT, which creates interconnections among words that are entered into the app. Touch Plus came in third place.

"Our tagline is 'experience the invisible,'" freshman Brandon Duderstadt, one of the developers of Touch Plus, said. "This is a product geared



SOFYA FREYMAN/PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF
Students from throughout the area competed at HopHacks for 36 hours last weekend.

towards the 285 million visually impaired people around the world today. It uses a Myo Armband and an IR sensor that attaches to your wrist to give you real time haptic feedback based off of the positions of objects around."

Duderstadt teamed up with three of his friends to participate in the weekend-long competition. Although it was his first hackathon, he said that he thought his team worked together very well and were able to get their project working before the weekend was over.

"I will have been up for 50 hours straight and I have never been happier to be so tired in my life," Duderstadt said. "It was lots of

coding, and our final product, it's nothing even close to what I want it to be, but the whole experience was just so much fun."

Freshman Matias Eisler, Duderstadt's teammate, added that, although it was hard to get started at first, he was happy with what the team was able to accomplish. Eisler said that this hackathon was run much better than the fall HopHacks competition.

"It looks like the event is really growing; [It has] more people, more projects, more funding, more sponsors, and the projects are getting more advanced and interesting," Eisler said.

SEE HOPHACKS, PAGE B9

"I have never been happier to be so tired in my life."

—BRANDON DUDERSTADT, PARTICIPANT

New process extracts gold from electronics

By **TONY WU**
Staff Writer

Gold, the precious metal that built and destroyed empires, was the focus of millions of investors for years. Two years ago, gold prices peaked at around \$2,000 per ounce. This ongoing interest in gold not only motivated ancient kings to start wars of conquest but also inspired a team of scientists to search for innovative methods of extracting gold.

In late March of 2015, a team of researchers found that human waste contains minute traces of gold and other precious metals. This waste is carried to wastewater facilities along with other metal-containing products like detergents. By taking waste samples from different communities, scientists have determined that the gold level in the sewage is the same as that of a minimal mineral deposit — an amount that is commercially

viable to extract from rocks.

This is not the most recent advance in gold extraction, however. Recently, a research team discovered an efficient method of stripping gold from electronic wastes. Modern electronics contain very small parts that are powered by low currents. As a result, a reliable, corrosion-resistant metal is necessary for the devices to work. Therefore, most electronics contain trace amounts of gold that are bound to their internal components.

However, extracting gold from electronics is difficult, and the amount of recovered gold from a single device is very low. Gold is a very non-reactive metal, which forces companies to use chemicals such as sodium cyanide to dissolve and extract gold. However, sodium cyanide is both environmentally damaging and expensive, making it unsuitable for stripping small amounts

SEE GOLD, PAGE B9



STOKPIC.COM
This new method can remove gold in a usable form from electronics.

Apple rumored to release up-to-date iPhone 5se

By **PAIGE FRANK**
Staff Writer

While the power, efficiency and functionality of smart phones have grown rapidly in recent years, so has their size. Apple in particular has been releasing larger and larger mobile devices. This March, it is rumored that Apple will reveal its newest iPhone model. The new phone will purportedly be called the iPhone 5se, with "se" denoting "special edition," and it will not be larger than four inches.

With the release of this new iPhone, Apple may be hoping to target customers who are avoiding upgrading their current iPhones due to the bigger dimensions of most new Apple models. The new model would be designed for consumers who treasure the smaller size of their current phones but desire the faster connections, better camera and other improved features of the iPhone 6 and 6s.

While Apple itself has yet to confirm any of the rumors about the iPhone 5se, most other sources agree on what customers can expect to see in the iPhone 5se.

The Screen
The screen size is expected to be significantly smaller than that of the iPhone 6 and 6s. However, the 5se will have the same screen resolution as the 6s. Because of the smaller screen size, the same level of resolution will allow it to display more pixels per square inch.

Power, Memory and Storage
The iPhone 5se will most likely contain at least the A8 processor found in the iPhone 6 and 6plus. Other sources, though, hint that the 5se will carry the A9 found in the iPhone 6s. Along with an improved processor, the 5se is likely to carry either an M8 or M9 motion co-processor for current health data tracking apps.

In regards to the new phone's memory capabilities, the iPhone 5se will most likely include the 1 gigabyte (GB) RAM found in the iPhone 6 and, at the very least, come equipped with 16 GB of storage. It is very likely, though, that the 5se will far surpass the storage of the 5s by likely offering at least 32 GB of storage and perhaps even 64 GB.



BRETT JORDAN/CC-BY-2.0
The recent, larger models of iPhones are under purchased.

Camera
The 5se is almost sure to have an eight-megapixel rear-facing camera like the iPhone 6. Rumors also indicate the potential for enhanced photo taking in low light. The front-facing camera on the 5se will most likely be the same 1.2 megapixel unit that is found in the iPhone 6.

The live photo feature that debuted on the iPhone 6s will most likely also make an appearance on the 5se.

Design
The new phone's most distinguishing feature will be its four-inch size, which is comparable to that of the older iPhone 5 models. Proponents argue that the smaller phone will fit better in pockets, purses and bags. Four inches is also a more manageable size when it comes to holding the phone in one's hands. While operating some of the larger models often requires the use of

SEE PHONE, PAGE B9

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Stem cells continue to produce neurons



Duy Phan
The Brain Wave

Something that is quite astonishing about the adult brain is that in special niches the entire process of embryonic neural development is recapitulated in a mature environment that is thought to be inhibitory to the growth of new neurons. Despite heavy resistance from the field for approximately 100 years, it is now well-accepted that neural stem cells exist in the adult mammalian brain and that these stem cells develop into functionally important newborn neurons that seem to play roles in learning, memory and mood regulation.

During early development, the nervous system is built by stem cells. These stem cells migrate on tracks laid out by cells called radial glia. A striking feature of radial glia cells is their long processes that extend over long distances. While radial glia cells were classically thought to only play roles in neural migration, it was later discovered that they also act as neural stem cells that give rise to neurons during development.

What happens to radial-glia cells after early development? Studies suggest that these cells lose their long processes, become quiescent and are transformed into adult stem cells dubbed "radial glia like neural stem cells," or RGLs. Indeed, adult RGLs share many of the same characteristics as the radial glia cells observed during early development, including a similar cellular shape and the expression of the same molecular markers.

RGL cells reside in two distinct regions of the mature mammalian brain, including the hippocampus, a region involved in learning and memory. As mentioned, RGL cells are not very active under normal conditions. However, once in a while, RGL cells may become activated and divide, giving rise to neural precursors called

intermediate progenitor cells. These progenitor cells, which are much more active than RGLs, actively proliferate and enter the cell cycle. Additionally, RGL cells could also give rise to differentiated astrocytes, which are non-neuronal support cells of the brain.

It is important to note here that once intermediate progenitor cells are generated, they are committed to becoming neurons. In other words, an intermediate progenitor cell cannot go backward and revert back to being an RGL cell.

Eventually, intermediate progenitor cells give rise to neuroblasts, which finally give rise to mature neurons in the hippocampus. Newborn neurons can integrate into the pre-existing neural circuitry and, over time, they develop robust dendritic processes that allow them to receive information from other neurons. For an RGL cell to fully mature into a neuron, it generally takes three weeks (based on studies using mouse models).

As a whole, the development of neural stem cells in the mature brain follows steps that resemble steps taken during early embryonic development, including proliferation, fate commitment, migration, differentiation and maturation. A single step, or a combination of these steps, can be affected by environmental conditions, diseased states and aging. For instance, decreased stem cell proliferation and slowed maturation is observed in the process of aging, whereas exercise can increase proliferation and speed up the maturation of stem cells into neurons.

In diseases such as Alzheimer's and depression, it is also believed that adult neural stem cell development is altered, contributing to the overall pathogenic mechanisms of neurological and psychiatric diseases. Therefore, understanding the development of adult neural stem cells and how to manipulate their developmental steps could lead to effective stem-cell-based therapeutic strategies for treating diseases and promoting brain repair after injury, even in brain regions that do not have stem cells.



NISSIM BENVENISTY/CC-BY-SA-3.0

In the brains of adults, stem cells are still producing newborn neurons.

Monkeys can be engineered to show autism

MONKEYS, FROM B7

for autism may have something to do with the common use of mice to study autism.

"Given that Autism Spectrum Disorder is [a] uniquely human disorder characterized by deficits in complex behaviors, there are limitations in relying solely on mouse models," Bauman told PBS. "Many pharmacological interventions developed in mice to treat human disease ultimately fail."

Scientists hope that by using primate models, such as Qiu's autistic monkeys, they may be able to better model autism and understand the molecular mechanisms leading to dysregulated social behavior.

"Mice are not in the same league when you're talking about doing models of social cognition and interaction," Dr. Jonathan Sebat, chief of the Beyster Center for Genomics of Psychiatric

"Many... [drug] interventions developed in mice to treat human disease ultimately fail."

— MELISSA BAUNMAN, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR



CHRIS HUIH/CC-BY-SA-3.0

Researchers have genetically altered monkeys in order to create a better model for studying autism.

Disease at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD), told *The New York Times*. "It's very

logical that a primate would make a better model of human development and neurodegeneration. It's a no-brainer."

According to the National Institutes of Neurological Disease and Stroke, ASD refers to a group of complex neurodevelopment disorders that are

characterized by repetitive patterns of behavior as well as issues with communication and social interaction. Qiu and his team used well-characterized tests for social behavior and anxiety to ensure that their transgenic monkeys showed signs of autism.

After observing their vocal patterns, the group found that the autistic monkeys made more grunts, coos and screams than non-autistic monkeys, which is indicative of increased social anxiety. The team also studied the monkeys' social behavior by measuring the average time that a transgenic monkey spent interacting with a normal monkey over six months. Based on their

results, the researchers found that the average time that a transgenic monkey sat with a normal monkey was significantly lower than the time that a normal monkey would sit with another normal monkey.

While Qiu's study represents the first validated primate model of autism, some scientists remain skeptical when asked about this study's implications for future research.

"It remains to be seen if the model can actually generate novel insights into the human condition," Dr. Alysson Muotri, Associate Professor in the Department of Pediatrics and Cellular & Molecular Medicine at UCSD, told *Nature*.

U.S. may yield more renewable energy by 2030



ALESPIA/CC-BY-SA-3.0

At the Conference of the Parties, the U.S. pledged to dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

By GABRIELLE STEPHENS
For The News-Letter

On Nov. 30, the Conference of the Parties (COP), consisting of over 190 countries, met in Paris to reduce the effects of climate change. By Dec. 12, this meeting had resulted in an agreement to hold the increase in global average temperature to two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. For the United States, this involved a pledge to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 28 percent below 2005 levels.

This can seem like a steep goal, especially given the rise in fracking among oil and natural gas companies. But according to a study done by the University of Colorado Boulder and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the U.S. is poised to not only meet this goal, but to surpass it by up to 50 percent.

By using a sophisticated mathematical model, which takes into account generation and transmission scenarios as well as increases in future cost and demand, NOAA's Earth System

Research Laboratory (ESRL) in Boulder, Colo. shows that improvements in transmission infrastructure could allow weather-driven renewable resources to supply most of the nation's electricity.

NOAA discussed the results of this model in a paper co-authored with recently retired ESRL director Alexander E. MacDonald. In the paper, which was published in the *Nature Climate Change Journal*, MacDonald theorizes that since the sun is always shining or winds are always blowing somewhere in the U.S., matching renewable energy generation systems to the scale of weather systems could solve the energy generation crisis. In essence, expanding renewable energy sources across the U.S., even without increasing battery storage, would generate enough electricity to keep our nation running.

MacDonald, along with a team of four other NOAA scientists, analyzed recent meteorological data and created a model to evaluate the cost of integrating mixed sources of electricity into the U.S.'s national energy

system.

Their model first estimates renewable resource potential, and then analyzes nationwide energy demands. The model then correlates these estimates with each potential method's associated carbon dioxide emissions and estimates how much it would cost to expand and operate electricity generation to meet future needs. The result is a multifaceted analysis of different electricity generation methods and their environmental and economic costs.

When MacDonald and his team ran their model, they found that it is possible to provide low-cost and low-emissions energy. According to Christopher Clack, one of the researchers who created the ESRL model, their system seeks out the lowest-cost energy sources and the model installs more renewable energy on the grid than exists today, regardless of constraints. Even in a scenario where renewable energy is more expensive than predicted, their model shows that energy would cost only 8.6 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh)

with a greater number of renewable resources producing electricity, compared to the current cost of 9.4 cents per kWh.

With this added renewable energy, carbon dioxide emissions would be cut by 33 percent below 1990 levels by 2030. Also, if renewable energy becomes cheaper than natural gas, as is expected, ESRL's model predicts that carbon dioxide emissions would be reduced by 78 percent from 1990 levels and electricity would cost 10 cents per kWh.

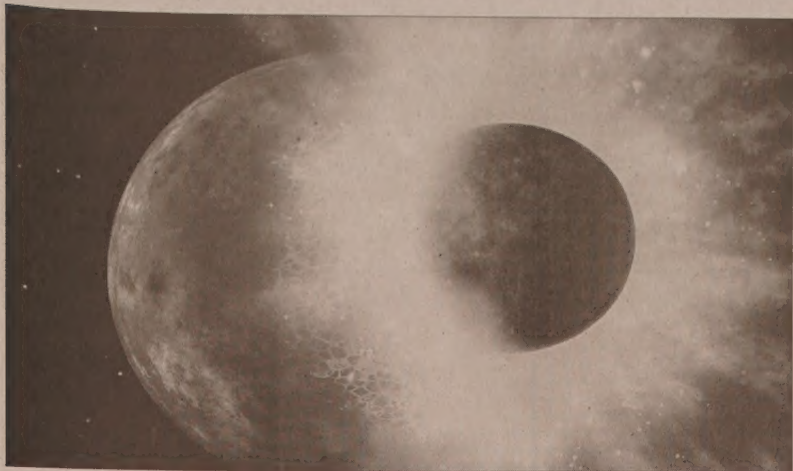
The key to the ESRL model's calculations is the allowance of improvements of the current transmission infrastructure. MacDonald states that the researchers allowed the model to build and pay for new high-voltage direct-current transmission grids (HVDC) to supplement the current electrical grid. These grids reduce electricity losses during long-distance transmission.

Their paper concluded that these grids are essential in keeping electricity costs low. MacDonald links HVDC grids to efficient interstate highway systems. Just as an interstate allows for traffic to smoothly flow between cities, reducing the cost of travel, HVDC grids allow for electrons to smoothly travel from city to city with minimal electricity loss.

Mark Jacobson, director of Stanford University's Atmosphere and Energy Program, regards ESRL's study as innovative. Because it shows renewable energy and transmission updates, it can significantly reduce fossil fuel-based electricity while simultaneously meeting the power demands of the U.S.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Moon was formed by a head-on collision

NASA/JPL-CALTECH/PUBLIC-DOMAIN
The impact between Earth and Theia, a planet-like object, was likely head-on rather than angled.By RAYYAN JOKHAI
For *The News-Letter*

Geochemists from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) have reported that the moon was formed by a colossal collision between the Earth and a “planetary embryo” called Theia roughly 100 million years after the Earth formed. While scientists were aware of this collision for quite some time,

many thought that the Earth and Theia collided at an angle of 45 degrees or more. However, new evidence suggests that the impact was more likely entirely head-on.

By analyzing seven rocks that were brought from the moon by Apollo missions 12, 15 and 17, as well as six volcanic rocks from the Earth’s mantle, the scientists at UCLA have found evidence that thoroughly substantiates this new claim.

The chemical signature of the rocks’ oxygen atoms revealed the key to reconstructing the collision. While there are rare

isotopes of heavy oxygen atoms, like oxygen-17 and oxygen-18, more than 99.9 percent of Earth’s oxygen is isotope oxygen-16, which consists of eight protons and eight neutrons in each oxygen atom. Atoms of oxygen-17 and oxygen-18 have one and two extra neutrons, respectively. All of the planetary bodies in our solar system, the Earth and Moon included, have a unique ratio of oxygen-17 to oxygen-16, providing somewhat of a “fingerprint” for each celestial body.

While German scientists in 2014 reported that the Moon and Earth have different isotopic ratios,

Edward Young and his team of geochemists and cosmochemists at UCLA reached different conclusions. Using cutting-edge technology like UCLA’s new mass spectrometer, the team meticulously calculated and measured the compositions of the rock samples and found that the oxygen isotopes from the moon were indistinguishable from the oxygen isotopes from Earth.

The implications of the Earth and Moon having the same isotopic ratio are quite far-reaching. If the Earth and Theia had collided at a 45-degree angle, the impact would have been a glancing side blow, resulting in the moon mainly made up of particles from Theia. If this were the case, the Earth and Moon would have vastly different isotopic ratios. However, a head-on collision is more consistent with the results and correlates with the findings of the Earth’s and Moon’s shared chemical signature.

“Theia was thoroughly mixed into both the Earth and the moon, and evenly dispersed between them,” Young, the lead author of this study, said. “This explains why we don’t see a different signature of Theia in the moon versus the Earth.”

Apple expected to release iPhone 5se

PHONE, FROM B7

two hands, the four-inch phone will enable users to comfortably hold the phone in one hand and still reach from one corner of the screen to the other.

In terms of the shape and make of the phone, it will actually look similar to the new larger iPhone 6 models. It will feature the smooth, curvy architecture of the 6S, making it less boxy and easier to hold. It is predicted to come in the same colors as the iPhone 6 and 6s: sil-

ver, space gray, gold and rose gold.

Price

The best estimates indicate that the iPhone 5se will have a retail price between \$400 and \$450, a price point equivalent to the current 5s model.

When it finally debuts, the iPhone 5se will be the first new model of its size produced since September 2013. For iPhone users who refuse to abandon their smaller phones, this release could prove monumental.



TAKUYA MURATA/CC-BY-SA-2.0

The iPhone 5se is predicted to be close in size to the iPhone 5.

HopHacks attracts over 300 students

HOPHACKS, FROM B7

Swann said that, although the event welcomes experienced coders, it also targets students with only a basic level of coding and even students with no coding experience at all.

“The cool thing about the event is there is always people there to train you during the event. We have mentors from our sponsors such as Google and Bloomberg and, in addition, a lot of the fellow hackers are more than happy to help you,” Swann said. “We encourage everyone to stop by because it’s such a great learning experience.”

In order to plan each HopHacks event, Swann partners with Major League Hacking, an organization that sponsors hackathons all around the country. Major League Hacking helps to link companies and sponsors with universities in order to get hackathons off the ground and running.

“I hope students will be able to talk and network with some of the sponsors and learn a little bit more about what they do in their professional lives,” Swann said. “That, in turn, can lead to other opportunities like internships.”

Apart from working with sponsors, Swann said that he loves to see students demonstrate the innovative projects they are able to come up with over the course of the weekend.

“There’s been some pretty amazing work done in the past with things like the Oculus Rift virtual reality, we’ve even had some hardware hacks... someone made a robotic bartender,” Swann said. “There are some really interesting, creative, cool hacks and seeing students build them is my favorite part of every hackathon.”

Humans contain fewer bacterial cells than expected

By REGINA PALATINI
Staff Writer

The expression “we are not alone” is truly an understatement when considering the number of microbes that live in and on the human body.

For the last several decades, researchers and the scientific community at large believed that bacterial cells outnumbered our own cells by a ratio of approximately 10 to 1. However, this estimate was recently updated by a study published in the journal *Cell*, which revealed that the average adult is actually made up of around 30 trillion human cells and about 40 trillion bacterial cells.

Although the ratio of bacterial to human cells is now a lot closer to 1:1, we are still essentially more bacteria than self.

So, are these foreign invaders good or bad, and do they help or impede our survival? Do they serve a purpose in our bodies, or are they just

along for the ride?

Some of the microbes on and inside the human body, collectively referred to as the human microbiome, can cause diseases. However, a growing body of research suggests that the many of them are beneficial and vital to our health and well-being. Certain bacteria can be so beneficial that a growing number of scientists are referring to our personal biomes as our “second genome.”

According to Elizabeth Grice, co-author of a recent paper published in *The Annual Review of Genomics and Human Genetics*, the microbes within humans can increase genetic diversity, provide humans with increased immunity and facilitate human digestion, among other benefits.

The human genome has been referred to as the blueprint of human biology. In recent years, the development of genomic technology has allowed researchers to take a closer

look at the human microbiome and to consider it as a contributor to the human genome.

Our genome consists of about 20,000 genes. We may have a few thousand different species of bacteria residing in our bodies, and each one of those species has a few thousand genes, so it can be beneficial to gain a better understanding of how these non-human genes are expressed.

Take our mouth, for example. It is considered to have its own “microbiome” due to the variable environmental conditions that it presents, which provide ideal conditions for bacterial growth.

“Scientists have estimated that up to 25,000 different types of bacteria can live in the mouth under certain chemically diverse circumstances. Over 1,000 of these bacterial species live in the dental plaque ecosystem as microorganisms that are extremely adaptable to changing mouth environments,” Harold Katz, who works at the University of California, Los Angeles School of Dentistry, told TheraBreath.

The human tooth is the only part of the body that does not contain some type of regulating system that periodically sheds its surface. Because of this, various colonies of microorganisms readily adhere to and remain on each tooth’s surface.

Dental plaque film is thought to be a part of an oral defense mechanism that is intended to prevent seriously pathogenic bacteria from rapidly destroying tooth enamel. However, this plaque can cause dental and gum disease when these microbes are presented with sugar, such as from a sugary beverage or candy bar. Being presented with sugar can cause the plaque to overgrow and to secrete acid that can damage the teeth.



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Consuming sugar can worsen the impact of the mouth’s microbiome.

Scientists isolate electronics gold

GOLD, FROM B7

of gold from electronics.

To avoid using sodium cyanide, the research team, led by Stephen Foley, an associate professor at the University of Saskatchewan, developed a method that relies on a combination of acids and oxidants. This solution consists of acetic acid mixed with an oxidant which, in the presence of another acid, dissolves gold at a record rate.

In their experiments, gold from electronic circuit boards were dissolved in around 10 seconds. In a large scale study, 100 liters of the solution was capable of dissolving one kilogram of gold. Additionally, the fluid is cheap and more environmentally-friendly than sodium cyanide; a liter of this solution costs 50 cents and can be reused in subsequent extractions.

robiome in addition to human genomes.

“The project is going to sequence the second human genome, which are the genomes of all these organisms,” he said. “We’re going to try to understand what’s going on in your microbiome. What does it do that makes it healthy? What is going wrong when it causes problems for you? How can we manipulate it and control it and make it better?”

In the continuing effort to understand how the human body functions, it is becoming more and more important to understand the trillions of foreign organisms that reside within us.

This novel solvent resembles a more commonly known liquid called *aqua regia*. Known for being very corrosive, *aqua regia* consists of a mixture of nitric acid and hydrochloric acid that, in the correct ratio, can dissolve nonreactive elements such as gold and platinum.

Although it can be used to extract gold, there are several disadvantages to using *aqua regia*. First, the components of the solution react with one another, speeding up the decomposition of the liquid and reducing its effectiveness. Furthermore, only one kilogram of gold can be extracted with 5,000 liters of *aqua regia*, none of which can be recycled.

As a result, the solution developed by Foley is currently considered one of the best options for commercial extraction of gold from electronic wastes.

SPORTS

M. Lax wows with OT victory at Navy

M. LAX, FROM B12

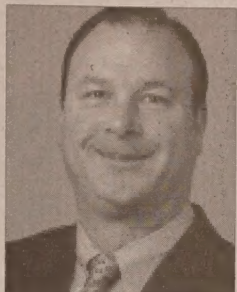
Brown scored again from 12 yards out to make the score 5-2 at the 11:03 mark in the second quarter. The Jays held this lead until the 4:24 mark, when Navy cut the lead to one after goals from senior Kevin Wendel and junior Matt Rees. Hopkins got one of those back following a strike from the left wing by freshman midfielder Drew Supinski, the first of his young college career, giving the Jays a 6-4 lead going into the second half.

Brown opened up the third quarter with a man-up goal, giving Supinski a hat trick on the game. Navy, however, fought back, pulling within one again at the 2:45 mark following goals from sophomore Jack Ray and freshman Greyson Torain.

The Midshipmen then quickly tied the score to open the fourth quarter, following another Torain strike.

The teams traded goals until the 6:55 mark, when senior attack Holden Cattoni gave the Jays a 10-9 lead with Brown adding its sixth goal of the game to give Hopkins a two-goal lead.

Ray got one of those



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM
Coach Pietramala's squad is off to another good start.

back at the 3:28 mark but Hopkins still clung to the one-goal lead until the 0:27 mark, when sophomore Casey Rees tied the game up at 11 and sent it to overtime.

Both teams had scoring opportunities in the first overtime period but both goalies stepped up to send the game into a second overtime.

The Jays had shots on goal from Cattoni and Stanwick but both were turned away by Navy's goalie, senior John Connors. Sophomore goalie Brock Turnbaugh, making his first career start for the Jays after winning a three-way battle for the starting role this pre-season, made a key stop with just a second remaining in the first overtime period, giving him 13 saves in the game.

The Jays opened the second overtime period with a man advantage after an unnecessary roughness against Navy. They quickly capitalized after junior John Crawley found an open Stanwick on the right side of the net and put it past Connors to give Hopkins the 12-11 victory in the season opener 39 seconds into the second overtime period.

Hopkins next travels down to Baltimore County to face off against the UMBC Retrievers on Saturday, Feb. 13. The game is scheduled to start at 1 p.m.

Brynn Mawr finds itself overmatched vs. Jays

W. BBALL, FROM B12

Conference, on Feb. 6 in Allentown, Pa. After a grueling match, Hopkins was unable to come away with a win.

The first quarter started out rocky since Muhlenberg was the first to get points on the board. Hopkins answered back when Cook scored a jumper in the sixth minute. Muhlenberg, however, created a decent margin until freshman Sophia Way started a scoring streak for Hopkins, leading them to finish the first quarter only three points behind Muhlenberg at 16-13.

In the second quarter, Muhlenberg came out strong again, getting on the board first, continuing to increase their lead and keeping it the entire second quarter. Despite efforts from the Blue Jays, the first half ended with an even larger separation in the score with Muhlenberg leading 41-30.

The second half opened with the dynam-



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM
Sophia Way was among the several freshmen who scored.

ic duo, junior Corcoran and Cook, coming out strong. Corcoran made both foul shots in the first minute of the third quarter and continued to add to Hopkins' efforts with a three-pointer in the ninth minute. Junior Janay Smith, senior Beatriz Williams, Corcoran and Cook all added points in the third quarter but never managed to take the lead from Muhlenberg, although they did manage to decrease Muhlenberg's lead to a score of 50-43.

In the fourth quarter, Corcoran got the Blue Jays on the board in the first minute of the quarter. However, the efforts weren't enough for Hopkins to come away with a win. They were unable to ever get the lead from Muhlenberg but put in a great team effort. This put the Blue Jays seventh in the Centennial Conference, with a Conference record of 6-7 and an overall record of 9-11.

BLUE JAY SPORTS SCOREBOARD			
M. Track	W. Track	Wrestling	Men's Lacrosse
February 6, 2016	February 6, 2016	February 6, 2016	February 5, 2016
@ Frank Colden Invite	@ Frank Colden Invite	vs. Muhlenberg	@ Georgetown
1st Place	1st Place	W, 38-3	Scrimmage
M. Basketball	W. Basketball	M. Fencing	Men's Lacrosse
February 6, 2016	February 6, 2016	February 6, 2016	February 9, 2016
@ Muhlenberg	@ Muhlenberg	@ North Carolina	@ Navy
L, 58-53	L, 66-54	W, 14-13	W, 12-11 (2 OT)

Wrestling splits with Ursinus and Muhlenberg

By LUCAS BEDNAREK
For The News-Letter

Hopkins wrestling ended its regular season on Saturday with home duals against Centennial Conference rivals Muhlenberg and Ursinus Colleges. The Blue Jays split the record in these matchups, with a 38-3 victory against Muhlenberg followed by a 36-6 loss to Ursinus.

In the same event, Hopkins fell to Merchant Marine with another 36-6 deficit. These matches brought the Jays' final regular-season record to 3-6, with a 3-5 record against Centennial Conference teams.

In their victory against Muhlenberg, the team demonstrated a commanding effort, especially in creating scoring opportunities.

"I think that we did a good job wrestling on all parts of the mat," junior Alex McLaughlin said. "Sometimes it is easy to let up a little bit on the edges, but your opponent does that too, making it a great scoring opportunity."

McLaughlin was a major factor in the Jays' win, providing a bonus point-win and an individual 19-1 victory against Muhlenberg.

"I think that I did alright. I need to be more careful about putting myself in danger on the mat though. I felt pretty good on my feet," McLaughlin said.

The Ursinus loss, while exposing obvious room for improvement in some aspects of the team's play, was still highlighted by some excellent Hopkins performances. Perhaps most notable was a perfect 3-0 day for freshman Isaac Morales.

"[This performance was] impressive for anybody, given the quality of our opponents, but even more impressive since he is a freshman. Expect big things from him and the other freshmen in years to come," McLaughlin said.

Drawing from the loss, the Hopkins team is able to point out what must be improved heading into the postseason. As in the victory against Muhlenberg, Hopkins was able to generate scoring opportunities efficiently against Ursinus. However, they then expressed difficulties in converting these opportunities.

"I think we need to work on finishing our shots. We are getting in on them just fine but we

need to work on capitalizing on scoring opportunities," McLaughlin said.

The Hopkins team will now be practicing and preparing for next week's Conference Championships in which they hope to see success.

"I think that we would like to see a couple champions this year," McLaughlin said.

However, Hopkins faces several formidable opponents within their conference, so this goal, while attainable, will not come easily.

"Stevens is probably the top team in the

Conference on paper... We'll need to take everything one step at a time," McLaughlin said. "Focus on the match at hand and not the ones in the future or the past."

To fulfill these aspirations, the team will be working on the improvable aspects of their performance while also taking care of themselves during training.

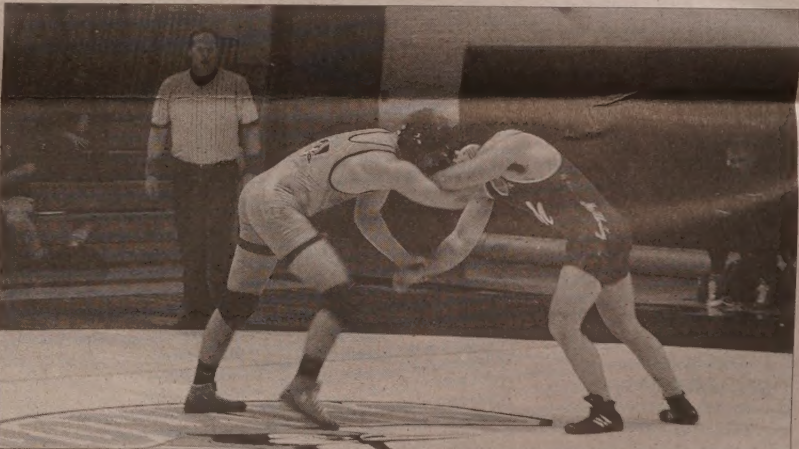
"We are focusing on making improvements on the little things in the room," McLaughlin said. "We are also staying focused outside of the room — eating right and lifting when we can [sic]."

This includes what

they learned in Saturday's matches against Muhlenberg and Ursinus. Most likely, this means working to continue creating scoring opportunities while finding ways to get more points off.

"I think overall we wrestled pretty well. There is obviously still room to improve, but we have a week before Conferences and three before Regionals, so that should be plenty of time," McLaughlin said.

The Centennial Conference Championships will be hosted by McDaniel College on next Sunday.



CINDY JIANG/PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF
The Jays had mixed success wrestling on their home turf when Ursinus humbled them 36-6.

Interested in sports? Want to learn more about D-I and D-III teams at Hopkins?

Write for the sports section!
Email us to get involved!

sports@jhunewsletter.com

SPORTS

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK SAM GORDON — MEN'S BASKETBALL

By **TARIQ OMER**
Staff Writer

Sam Gordon is this week's Athlete of the Week. He is a senior starter on the men's basketball team and is having a great season so far. He kindly agreed to answer a few questions for *The News-Letter*.

The News-Letter: How does the team bounce back from a defeat like the one against the Muhlenberg College Mules that came down to the wire?

Sam Gordon: Whenever we lose a close game, we just try to gather ourselves and focus on the next one. We're in a battle right now both for making the playoffs and playoff position, so harping on a bad loss only hurts us. After losses, we really try to come out strong the next practice. In the heat of the season it's easy to not go 100 percent in practice — jogging instead of sprinting, not running plays at game speed — but with games packed so close to each other, it's important that we stay in game rhythm. We've come back from bad losses multiple times this season, largely due to upperclassmen leadership, and I think we will again this time around.

N-L: You posted your fourth triple-double of the season. How have you been able to be so effective so far?

SG: I just try to leverage my height and jumping ability. I played 40 minutes all last year, so teams didn't really know about me coming into the season. I usually defend smaller guards, so I'm constantly crashing the boards. I've gotten tons of easy points just because no one boxes me out. Another way I've been able to score is by running. Whenever there's a fast break opportunity, I sprint down the sideline, and more times than not whoever has the ball will find me. Outside of fast breaks and offensive rebounds, I try to position myself in places that I can score from. Even though I play on the perimeter, I always find myself roaming the baseline trying to get behind the defense. Everyone on our team is an offensive threat in some way or another, and this creates openings in the defense. If I find the opening, I have a good chance to score. On the defensive end I really just try to play hard and use my length to bother shots, and as I said before, whenever a shot goes up I'm going in the rebound.

N-L: How is the camaraderie in the team this year and how does the team feel compared to your previous years?

SG: The camaraderie couldn't really be any better. Everyone gets along, and any argument on the court stops once we leave the gym. Sometimes it's too good; we'll be laughing and joking around instead of focusing on the drill. This usually doesn't happen, but it speaks to the chemistry we have. In terms of camaraderie versus past years, I walked on last year as a junior, so I only have one year to measure against, but both years it's been really good. One difference is that last year we barely ever lost games, and our chemistry was never really tested. This year we've had a lot more turbulence, but our sense of camaraderie and commitment hasn't wavered or anything like that. If anything we have come together to fight the adversity of the season.

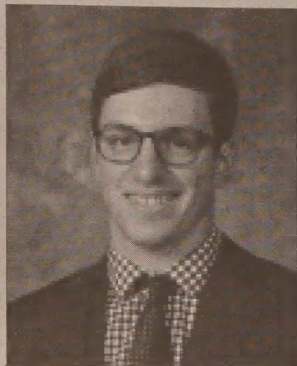
N-L: How do you think you've grown as a player since you first started playing for Hopkins?

SG: My personal growth has largely been a function of playing time. Last year I rarely got in but when I did I was jumpy and not really accustomed to our system. This year, as I've played and eventually cracked the starting lineup, the game has slowed down a bit. I know the plays better and know where I'm supposed to be on the court (for the most part — my teammates would agree that I still drift off sometimes) but another thing with playing time is that it gives you confidence. When you're playing one minute some games and none in others, you're kind of in limbo because you know you're good but can't show it. This year, the coaches have given me more minutes and a longer leash, so I've been able to show off my strengths. Playing well has a snowball effect because you have a good game, your confidence increases, and then you have something to build on for the next game. All in all, my coaches' and teammates' confidence in [the] team has been integral to my growth as a player.

N-L: Any final thoughts you have about the season so far and looking ahead?

SG: My only final thoughts are that I don't think our record reflects how good we are. We beat the second and third place teams three out of four times and lost a nail-biter to F&M, who is in first place. I'm confident that if we pull everything together and play our game, we'll not only make the playoffs but will contend for the championship.

Gordon and the rest of the Blue Jays will hit the court again this Saturday when they'll host Franklin and Marshall while celebrating their Senior Day.



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Gordon is making the most of his last season playing as a Blue Jay.

Five things to watch during the Premier League

Zach Jaffe
Sportpinion

It isn't even over yet, but this season of Premier League football has been the wildest since the inception of the league in 1992. On Feb. 11, 2015, the Leicester City Foxes was in last place before finishing the season on a "hot streak" to avoid relegation and earn a 14th-place finish. At the time of writing, the Foxes occupy the top spot on the table by five points (over perennial contender the Arsenal Gunners and the always borderline Tottenham Hotspur "Spurs" — more on them later). Towards the bottom of the table, there's Chelsea in 13th. The defending champions have been unable to right the ship after a rocky start and now face a year without any European competitions. In what has been a crazy season, *The News-Letter* names its top five things to look out for in the rest of the year.

1. Can Leicester do it?

Any talk of 2015-16 in world football starts and ends with the Foxes, whose unprecedented rise to the top of the table has made front pages all around the world. This team, which had 5,000 to 1 odds of winning Britain's top flight at the beginning of the year, has the inside track to the title. Jamie Vardy and Riyad Mahrez have become two of the

most dominant players in Europe this season and have most certainly earned themselves moves outside of King Power Stadium during the summer transfer window (although Vardy did just sign a contract through 2019). This team doesn't have any more competitions outside of the premier league, unlike the teams running behind them, and should be refreshed for every match they play. Incredibly enough, Leicester has the inside track to the title, and barring an epic collapse, will be playing in the Champions League regardless of a first-place finish.

2. Will Tottenham make a push?

Even including the Foxes, Tottenham has been the most impressive team time and time again this season. The Spurs have amassed a 26-goal differential, the highest in the league by five, and they sit in second-place behind Leicester. What normally would be a headline grabber has seen little press because of the Foxes' success but Tottenham has never won the Premier League title and last won Britain's top flight in 1961. Mauricio Pochettino has established himself as one of the great coaches in today's game and looks for his Spurs to make a run at Leicester. The question is, can Tottenham win enough games with-

out drawing (they have struggled this season) to take the title?

3. What to do about Manchester City and Arsenal?

Up until last week, Man City remained the favorite to take home the title, but after a home thrashing at the hands of Leicester, oddsmakers have thrown them behind the Foxes. The Gunners, who at times have looked like the best team in the league, struggled to win for over a month until a 2-0 away win against Bournemouth. Man City's chances lie in their training staff's ability to get key pieces like David Silva, Kevin de Bruyne and Jesus Navas back on the field. All three will miss Sunday's fixture against Tottenham, which could prove vital for their premier league chances. Arsenal has problems of its own, as they welcome first-place Leicester to Emirates Stadium in the first of two top-four matchups. A loss to the Foxes could spell the end for Arsenal's chances.

4. What are the offseason plans for underachieving top clubs?

Chelsea sits 13th in the table, Liverpool sits ninth and Manchester United sits at an unconvincing fifth. The question for Chelsea is: Who will take over the reigns after Jose Mourinho's firing months ago? For Liverpool, can Jurgen Klopp get the men he needs to

make a run at next season's title? Finally, for Man United, can Louis Van Gaal's squad secure a top-four finish to possibly save the Dutchman's job? All of the answers to these questions are cloudy at best, and the end of the season should prove interesting for these teams. Chelsea will likely turn its thoughts to the Champions League, where it will face French giant Paris Saint-Germain next week. The other two will look to play spoiler.

5. Who will be relegated or promoted?

It seems written in stone that longtime Premier League teams like Sunderland and more so Aston Villa will be relegated, barring a late-season surge, but who will take that third spot? Norwich City sits in 18th now but could very well leave that spot because they trail Newcastle United by one point and Swansea City by four. The Canaries will look to join Watford and Bournemouth, both promoted last season, for another year in the league. On the other side, with 12 games remaining, Middlesbrough, Brighton and two of last year's relegated teams, Burnley and Hull City, will battle it out for the three spots.

In what has been an already crazy season, the craziest is yet to come, so buckle up for a wild three months.

M. Basketball falls to .500 after loss



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM

Sophomore guard Kyle Doran provided several clutch threes.

M. B-BALL, FROM B12

Mules up to a 48-46 lead with only 4:26 left to play. Curran drove into the lane and made a clutch layup to push Hopkins level at 48 but Muhlenberg standout sophomore Nick Rindock answered with a basket of his own, and the Mules never trailed again.

Standouts for the Jays included senior Sam Gordon, who had a double-double with 10 points and 10 boards. Senior Matt Billups also pitched in 10 points of his own and blocked three shots. The primary facilitator in the contest was sophomore guard Jesse Flannery, who dished out a game-high six assists and made an impact defensively with three steals. Curran, who lead all Hopkins scorers with 17 points on an efficient 7-12 shooting, told *The News-Letter* that he was disappointed with the loss but that there were still some positives. Going forward, the Jays cannot take any

opponent lightly and will have to remain focused and dedicated in practice in order to finish the year on a late-season surge.

"Positives we can draw from the loss is that it shows us that we cannot take anyone in this Conference lightly and have to show up every night to play," said Curran. "The team is going to need to come to practice focused every night for the rest of the season. Everything we do on the court starts in practice."

This team entered the year with lofty goals, and there is still time and opportunity to accomplish it all but they will need to take it one game at a time and put together consistent and reliable efforts on both sides of the ball, both at Goldfarb and away from its familiar confines. The Jays have four games remaining in their Conference slate. The team will host Haverford on Feb. 15, with tipoff set for 8 p.m.

Dominant invitational showing for Track

TRACK, FROM B12
by a Wesley runner to win the 800-meter race.

Freshman Felicia Korrner secured first in the one mile, just ahead of her fellow teammates, junior Tess Meehan and freshman Erin Brush.

The trend continued, as senior Jordan Delane won the 3,000 meter, just in front of fellow senior Hannah Oneda.

The Jays maintained control throughout, as junior Veronica Boswell, junior Lara Gaffney, sophomore Bridget Gottlieb and freshman Julia Chang took first through fourth in the 5,000 meter.

Sophomore Caroline Smith, who was named last week's Centennial Conference Runner of the Week, capitalized on her strong season thus far and sprinted to second place in the 800 meter.

In the field, senior Paige Marsh placed third in the triple jump, while freshman Jaymie Criscione prevailed in the high jump with a winning 1.55.

A portion of the women's team will compete at the United States Naval Academy this Thursday Feb. 11, where they will look to capitalize on the momentum and confidence from last weekend's team victory and progress toward the upcoming Centennial Conference Championships.

On Friday, Feb. 12, Hopkins will take some members of the men's

and women's teams to the more selective David Hemery Valentine Invitational. Hosted by Boston University, the event will feature solid competitors from teams including the Georgetown University Hoyas, New York University Bobcats and Dartmouth College Big Green. According to Peters, the runners are looking forward to proving themselves in the more competitive pool.

"We're really excited to race in Boston though because it is a good opportunity to run against very strong competition," Peters said. "All the guys have been training hard to run their best times this weekend and carry the excitement of these earlier meets into this critical part of our season, as we get ready for conference and hopefully NCAA championships."

Freshman Jordan Luciano, who finished third in last Saturday's long jump, also expressed her excitement for the event, noting the extra work she has put in to be properly prepared.

"Going to the invitational as a freshman is a huge honor, and I am very excited to be participating in the meet," Luciano said. "I am working with my coaches to work on my form and make sure my steps are good for the meet. The track is a great facility, and I am looking forward to competing against good competition."

SPORTS

DID YOU KNOW?

JHU has four straight Top-10 finishes in the Learfield Sports Directors' Cup.

CALENDAR

Friday
Swim @ Bluegrass Mountain Conference Championship
Saturday
W. Lax vs. Marquette, 12 p.m.
Men's B-Ball vs. F&M, 1 p.m.
M. Lax @ UMBC, 1 p.m.

Fencing wins 15th, ties last season's mark



CINDY JIANG/PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF

The men's fencing team took home seven of their 10 bouts this weekend as they squared off against North Carolina, Lafayette and Rutgers. Their 15 wins this year already tied their mark from last year. Junior Patrick Rose led the way this weekend with 15 wins. Senior Jay Petrie got his 269th career victory, tying him for fourth among Hopkins foilists.

Men, women sweep Frank Colden Invite

By MAGGIE SPITZER
For The News-Letter

In the early morning hours of Saturday, Feb. 7, the Hopkins men's and women's indoor track and field teams made the two hour trek to Collegeville, Pa. for the Frank Colden Invitational.

After a long day of events, both squads departed the Floy Lewis Bakes Center in first place.

Hopkins men and women dominated across the board, beating their closest opposition in the Wesley Wolverines and the Stockton Wolverines by considerable margins.

En route to securing the highest team scores, the Jays brought home five men's and four women's titles.

In the men's 4x800-meter relay, the combination of junior Tom Reinhardt, freshman Kevin Peters, sophomore Colton Takata and freshman Scott Pourshalchi won in dominant fashion.

The nearest competition finished over eight seconds behind them.

"Everyone on our 4x8 team had already run that day and were a little tired, but we still wanted to compete," Peters said. "We all wanted to

end the day with a big performance, and everyone did just that with everyone running in the low two minutes for their leg."

In distance, the dominance continued with Hopkins taking first through eighth in the 3,000-meter run. Sophomores John McMullin, Schaffer Ochstein and Charles Thornton rounded out the top three spots.

The pole vault featured junior Andrew Barnett, who secured first for the second week in a row. This week, the Missouri native reached 5.0 meters.

Sophomore Alex Kossak posted a consistent high mark as well, earning second behind his teammate.

Senior Devin Conley contributed 10 more points to the men's title with a victory in the high jump.

Senior Devin Conley contributed 10 more points to the men's title with a victory in the high jump.



HOPKINSPORTS.COM
Senior Devin Conley took home victory in the men's high jump.

Back on the track, Hopkins men saw even more contributions from young competitors, as freshman Jeff Braun went the distance to earn a solid third in the 5,000-meter run and freshman Dominic Yared sneaked

SEE TRACK, PAGE B11

Wrestling splits dual meet

In an event at Goldfarb Gymnasium, the wrestling team won a meet and dropped one, both by large margins. Read more about the intriguing weekend inside.

Page B10

Premier League analysis

Resident Premier League fanatic Zach Jeffe breaks down his five things to watch for as the season winds down, with a focus on personnel decisions in the post-season.

Page B11

Athlete of the Week: Sam Gordon

Senior forward Sam Gordon has been a key part of the Jays' surprising success this year after not contributing much in past years. He notched his fourth double-double Saturday.

Page B11

Loss drops M. Basketball to 10-10 on the season

By ANDREW JOHNSON
Staff Writer

This past weekend, the Hopkins men's basketball team travelled to Allentown, Pa. to take on the Muhlenberg College Mules in a pivotal Centennial Conference tilt. In a wild, back-and-forth affair, the Mules ultimately prevailed over the Jays by a score of 58-53.

With the loss the Jays dropped to an even 10-10 on the season (7-6 CC) while the Mules improved to 8-11 (5-8 CC).

The Jays are a talented unit, laden with seniors, but they have struggled on the road this season and have also displayed a tendency of playing down to their competition.

The Mules are a talented squad who are capable of beating any opponent in the Conference, especially at home, so the loss cannot be considered a major disappointment.

However, with the Jays fighting for seeding in the Conference tournament, each remaining matchup is incredibly pivotal if the Jays want to have a realistic chance of making another deep post-season run.

The game can be defined by a series of game-altering runs on both sides which constantly tipped the scale in favor of one opponent over the other.

Hopkins opened up an 8-2 lead to begin the contest, but the Mules surged back with an 11-2 burst which put them out in front midway through the first

half. The game drew to a tie at 17 all with under five minutes remaining in the first period, but a 9-2 burst by the Mules put them ahead 26-19 as the game drew near the break.

A clutch three from standout senior forward Matt Billups and a pair of free throws from sophomore guard Kyle Doran pulled Hopkins within

three near the close of the half.

A 16-2 run by the Jays to open the second period stretched their lead to 39-31 at the 13:45 mark.

The outburst was catalyzed through the scoring efforts of both junior guard Ryan Curran, who pitched in a game high 17 points, and senior forward Sam Gordon.

The two combined for 15 of the 16 points scored during the outburst, and it appeared that the Jays were about to assert themselves and coast on a comfortable margin.

But the Mules battled back, chipping away at the Hopkins lead over the next 10 minutes until five straight points by Muhlenberg opened the

SEE M. BBALL, PAGE B11

W. Basketall dominates in victory

By GAB RUSSO
For The News-Letter

On Thursday, Feb. 4, the Lady Jays took on the Bryn Mawr College Owls in another non-Conference matchup.

Hopkins entered the game with an overall record of 8-10 and a Conference record of 5-6. They were able to improve their overall record with a substantial win.

In the first quarter, Hopkins got on the board first when junior Caroline Corcoran made a layup in the eighth minute with an assist from senior Liz Tommasi.

The Lady Jays kept up the scoring throughout the first half as seniors Beatriz Williams and Tomassi, juniors Rachel Cook and Janay Smith and freshmen Lexie Scholtz and Sophia Way all put points on the board. Hopkins only allowed their opponent to score nine points in the first quarter, ending with a score of 19-9.

In the second quarter,

Hopkins managed to completely surpass the Owls, scoring 27 points and only giving up four points. Senior Katie Clark, freshman Madison McGrath and freshman Marissa Varnado added points to the board for the Jays, sealing their win.

The 'Dynamic Duo,' as Corcoran and Cook are referred to, were on fire in the first half, constantly playing off each other and working well together to help Hopkins come out with a win.

Hopkins came out in the start of the third quarter well ahead of the Owls and looked to increase the margin of their win in the second half.

Although the starters eventually were pulled out of the game, the rest of the team kept up the scoring and aggressive level of play to get them to a final score of 87-29.

With this confidence, the men's team went into their next game against the Muhlenberg College Mules.

The Jays faced the Mules, the No. 1 team in the Centennial

SEE W. BBALL, PAGE B10



HOPKINSPORTS.COM

Junior Caroline Corcoran poured in 11 points in the big victory.

M. Lax wins double overtime thriller

By GAURAV VERMA
Staff Writer

The Hopkins men's lacrosse team took part in

two scrimmages these past two weekends, first traveling to the University of Denver to scrimmage against the defending world champion Pioneers and then making the short trip down the Beltway to Washington, D.C. to play the Georgetown University Hoyas.

In the scrimmage against Denver, the Jays were unable to dig out of an 8-1 first quarter hole and fell 14-10. Leading scorers for the Jays were senior attack Ryan Brown and junior attack Wilkins Dismuke. Official results from the Georgetown scrimmage were not reported.

The Jays then opened their regular season slate

with a thrilling 12-11 double overtime win against the Navy Midshipmen in Annapolis, Md. on Tuesday night.



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Senior attack Ryan Brown led the way with six goals for the Jays.

The Jays jumped to an early 3-0 lead within the first six minutes of the first quarter, backed by two back-to-back goals from junior midfielder John Crawley and a goal right off the faceoff by senior faceoff specialist Craig

Madarasz, seeing his first game action in over a year after missing last season after suffering an injury in the pre-season.

Hopkins held the three-goal lead until the Midshipmen took advantage of a man-up situation to cut the lead to two and then immediately followed that effort with another tally just 14 seconds later. Brown then brought the lead back to two

SEE M. LAX, PAGE B10